BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 39 | BENGALURU | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 56 | PRICE ₹6**

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

BNP to take over B'desh reins after 20 yrs, Khaleda's son set to be PM

Jamaat In Oppn; Ally Students' Party Wins 6

TURNOUT NEARLY 60%; EMPHATIC YES TO REFORMS

Turnout reached nearly 60%, well over 42% in last election in 2024

48m voters chose 'yes' while around 23 million said 'no' in a **referendum on constitutional reforms**

Jamaat, the main force behind the 'July Uprising' that ousted Hasina, will now sit in oppn

RAHMAN: EXILE TO TOP JOB

- Scion of one of Bangladesh's most prominent political families. His mother, Khaleda Zia, was a two-time PM who died last year. His father, Ziaur Rahman, was a military officer who served as president
- Rahman (60) returned to Dhaka in Dec after a 17-year exile in London
- BNP insiders say **Rahman wants to steer his party away from Islamist political groups** and curb executive power by strengthening the judiciary
- He has signaled a **break with Jamaat**, which for years provided street muscle for BNP

Dhaka: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a sweeping victory on Friday with more than two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary elections and is making a spectacular return to office after a gap of two decades.

The 13th parliamentary polls assumed significance as they were held after a period of tumultuous political vacuum, instability and fragile security situation, including widespread attacks on minorities after the student-led protests brought down the 15-year govt of Sheikh Hasina in Aug 2024.

FULL COVERAGE: P 22
▶ **EDIT PAGE: Test For Tarique/'Shared History? That's History'**

According to the unofficial results announced by Election Commission, BNP bagged 209 out of 297 seats, while right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami, known to be close to Pakistan, secured 68 seats. Hasina's Awami League was barred from contesting polls, which recorded almost 60% turnout. BNP leader Tarique Rahman is set to become PM for the first time. He will replace interim govt chief Muhammad Yunus, under whose tenure Dhaka's relations with New Delhi witnessed a significant downturn. BNP general secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the party would form next govt by Sunday. Voting was held Thursday along with a referendum on implementation of a complex 84-point reform package, known as the July National Charter.

▶**EC dismisses claims, P 22**

Modi to Tarique: B'deshis trust your leadership

PM Modi was the first leader to congratulate Tarique Rahman for his "decisive victory", building upon his earlier outreach to both Rahman and his recently deceased mother Khaleda Zia. "I reaffirmed India's continued commitment to the peace, progress, and prosperity of both our peoples," he said. The victory reflected the trust the Bangladeshi people had in Rahman's leadership, PM tweeted. The victory reflected the trust the Bangladeshi people had in Rahman's leadership, PM tweeted. Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee also wished Rahman & wished for cordial ties. **P 22**

▶**Dipu Das kin: Hope new govt gives justice, P 22**

FTAs show increased global confidence in India: Modi

Times News Network

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Friday rejected the criticism over the recent free trade agreements, asserting that few countries were willing to sign FTAs during the UPA dispensation when India was marred by scams and counted among 'Fragile Five' economies, while it is now capable of competing with the world.

THE TIMES GROUP
ET NOW GBS Global Business Summit
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Addressing the ET NOW Global Business Summit, the PM said UPA could conclude FTAs with only four countries, while his govt has signed agreements covering 38 countries. "Who would have confidence in India when policy paralysis and scams marked its governance," he said in a swipe at UPA govt. To emphasise what has changed since 2014, he said new policies and capabilities effected by his govt have led to a transformation.

The celebration of FTAs signed seemed to mark a rejection of the criticism by Congress and other opponents as well as the confidence that the charges against the trade deal with the US were not going to wash.

▶**Drive world growth, P 16**

NEW ADDRESS, FRESH START | After 78 years, the nerve centre of the central govt on Friday **moved from the British-era South Block to Seva Teerth** that now houses the PMO. Inaugurating the new buildings, including two Kartavya Bhavans, **Modi said as the nation moves towards a Viksit Bharat, it is vital that India sheds every trace of colonial mindset.** The Cabinet met for the last time in South Block earlier in the day. (Above) In his first decisions at the new PMO, Modi signed files relating to free medical care for road accident victims, doubling of target of Lakhpati Didis and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, and a corpus of ₹10,000cr for Startup India Fund | **P 9**

AI fined ₹1cr for flying plane with lapsed papers

DGCA has fined Air India ₹1cr for operating an aircraft without a valid airworthiness certificate. It also directed some postholders from engineering be removed. Comments were sought from AI on this issue and awaited till the time of going to press. TNN

Oppn likely to file notice to impeach CEC

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New Delhi: The opposition is likely to file for the impeachment of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Parliament. The move, coinciding with the notice for no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, will further escalate the tensions between the ruling camp and the INDIA bloc.

Sources said the notice for impeachment will be aimed at the post-recess budget session that starts in the second week of March. The demand for impeachment of Gyanesh Kumar has been pushed by TMC. The opposition had been staying clear of the demand, until now. As if to get back at the allies, TMC did not sign on the removal notice the INDIA bloc recently moved against Speaker Birla even while pointing out that it was not opposed to the move in principle.

▶**Govt drops motion plan against Rahul, P 18**

▶**Trinamool demand, P 18**

Ahead of TN polls, Stalin gives 1.3cr women ₹5k each

Ahead of Tamil Nadu assembly polls, CM M K Stalin's govt credited Rs 5,000 each to over 1.3 crore women under a welfare scheme. He said the move was to prevent disruption due to the election code and promised to double the entitlement if re-elected. **P 9**

Cannot interfere with HC opinion on integrity of a judge, says SC

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New Delhi: Taking a hardline stance to improve public faith and confidence in the integrity of justice delivery in trial courts, Supreme Court Friday said a district judge's "spoken reputation" is an important factor for a high court in deciding his extension or compulsory retirement.

A Gujarat additional district judge was retired in "public interest" in July 2016 on attaining the age of 56 years and 9 months based on a report of a panel of 3 high court judges, who examined service records and recommended premature retirement of 18 judicial officers, including the petitioner.

He had unsuccessfully challenged his compulsory retirement before HC.

▶**Not contesting, P 18**

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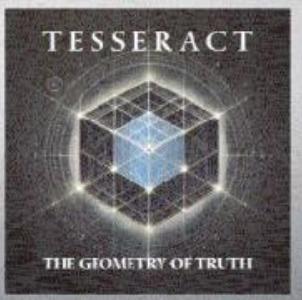

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PUSH FOR SMART TRAVEL: Shakti Card To Replace Practice Of Showing Aadhaar To Conductors & Avoid Misuse of Scheme

Soon, women can travel on bus, Metro with 1 card

Suchith.Kidiyoor @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Women commuters in the city are set to get a major convenience boost: A single smart mobility card that will work both on city buses and the Metro.

The state govt is preparing to roll out Shakti scheme ID smart cards that double up as travel credentials on BMTC buses and as National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) for seamless entry into Namma Metro.

The proposed card will continue to guarantee free bus travel under the Shakti scheme on BMTC buses, while also functioning as a stored-value card for Metro train rides wherein users will simply need to recharge the card to access Metro services.

Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy said the cards will be issued free of cost to eligible beneficiaries. The scheme already enables free travel for women domiciled in the state across over 15,000 buses operated by four state-run transport corporations, with more than 35 lakh women using the facility daily. In Bengaluru alone, around 22-24 lakh women rely on free bus travel every day.

The new smart card is expected to replace the current practice of showing Aadhaar cards to conductors — a system that has led to misuse through fake or out-of-state credentials. By integrating the card with electronic ticketing machines, conductors will swipe the card to validate each trip, ensuring accurate passenger data and plugging revenue leakages. "The state cabinet cleared the project. Now modalities will be worked out on how to issue the card. Measures will be taken to issue the card in online and offline modes through citizen-service facilitation centres in cities and rural areas. Cards will be issued free of cost," the minister said.

An official said, "While issuing the Shakti scheme smart card, a database available with the state will be used to verify residential address and other details. Conductors will be able to issue the ticket only after swiping the card on the electronic ticketing machine. This will ensure more accuracy in the number of people using the benefit, the money spent, and other factors."

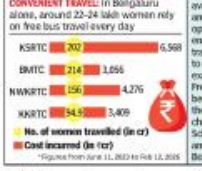
All four RTCs (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC) issued over 668 crore tickets for women passengers to travel in ordinary buses. From June 11, 2023 to Feb 12, 2026, corporations spent Rs 17,313 crore to provide free travel facilities.

SHAKTI SCHEME

Tickets issued under Shakti scheme: **668 Cr**

Money spent by four RTCs: **₹17,313 Cr**

CONVENIENT TRAVEL: In Bengaluru alone, around 22-24 lakh women rely on free bus travel every day



*Figures from June 11, 2023 to Feb 12, 2026

KSRTC offers free travel for PU exam pupils

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will provide free bus travel to PU students during their examination period from Feb 28 to March 17. They can avail free travel by producing their hall tickets.

The facility will be available on ordinary and express services operated by KSRTC, enabling students to travel from their house to respective examination centres. Free travel facility has been provided based on the request of the chairman of Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

Woman kills mom for ₹40L, stages it as heart attack

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Bengaluru: Just before lighting the funeral pyre, he paused for one last look at his sister, who had purportedly died of a sudden heart attack. As he leaned in, he had a nagging sense something wasn't right. There were faint blood marks on her face. "Why are there blood stains on her face if she died of a heart attack?" he wondered.

That question unravelled a chilling crime.

The woman, B Pushpavati, 52, had in fact not died of a heart attack. She had allegedly been smothered to death, and the people accused of killing her are her own daughter and son-in-law.

Tumakuru district police, based on a complaint lodged by her brother S Anil Kumar, arrested the couple Friday for murder. It is suspected that greed for Rs 40 lakh drove the crime.

Son noticed faint blood stains near nostrils

Pushpavati, a resident of Kyatasandra in Tumakuru district, had been living alone since the death of her husband a year ago. In the early hours of Thursday, Kumar received a call informing him that she had suffered a heart attack. He rushed to her house by evening, only to notice suspicious blood stains near her nostrils.

His niece, Suchitra Suresh, 30, dismissed the marks as mosquito bites. Refusing to allow the hurried cremation arranged by the family, he alerted police and stopped the body from being taken away. Police arrived at the spot and shifted the body for autopsy.

Doctors indicated that Pushpavati had been smothered to death while asleep on the night between Feb 11 and 12. During interrogation, Suchitra and her husband, Suresh Kumar confessed to the crime. Pushpavati recently sold a property and deposited Rs 40 lakh in her bank account. Police suspect her daughter plotted the murder to gain control of the funds.

2 foreigners attempt to draw graffiti on Metro coaches, flee

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Bengaluru: Two men, believed to be foreign nationals, allegedly attempted to trespass into Kadugodi Metro depot near Whitefield Thursday, reportedly to draw graffiti on coaches.

The duo used a rope ladder **(in pic)** to scale the nearly 15-foot-high compound wall of the depot. Sources said they carried spray paint cans when security personnel on duty noticed them midway through their climb. On seeing the guards approach, the two men quickly climbed down the rope ladder and attempted to flee. The two men were confronted by a cowherd, Shivu, and his friend. Fearing they could be armed, they refrained from catching them and alerted security personnel at the depot gates. Shivu told TOI the duo spoke in English, which he could not understand.

Sources said a Namma Metro train was stationed inside the depot at the time of the incident. BMRCL filed a complaint at Kadugodi police station, stating two unidentified foreign nationals attempted trespassing. An FIR was registered. "Their exact intentions will be known only after a detailed investigation. Their nationality, ideology and motives will become clear once inquiries progress," a source said.

Officials pointed out that similar incidents involving graffiti by foreign nationals had been reported in the past. In Sept 2025, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad detained four Italian citizens for painting graffiti on a Metro train parked in a depot in that state.

Gift of life: Doctor fights legal battle to give kidney to stranger

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Dr Thankam S first pledged for organ donation in 2014. But as she learned about low conversion rates in deceased donations, she felt compelled to act sooner. "I decided to become a living donor," she said

Bengaluru: For decades, doctors have been seen as lifesavers through the care they provide. In a rare act that went far beyond the call of duty, a city-based fetal medicine specialist chose to save a life in a deeply personal way — by donating her own kidney to a stranger.

Dr Thankam S, a consultant at Manipal Hospitals on Old Airport Road, first pledged organ donation in 2014. But as she learned more about the low conversion rates in deceased donations, she felt compelled to act sooner.

"I didn't want to leave it to circumstances," the doctor said. "I decided to become a living donor."

What followed was a decade of legal hurdles, lack of family support and repeated rejections by the hospital-based authorisation committee because she was not related to the recipient. In 2023, she matched with a 24-year-old orphan on the cadaver waiting list, but permission was denied, with the committee mentioning "not being able to establish a relationship between the donor and the recipient" as the reason.

"In June 2025, we filed a case in court to tackle the legal hurdles, and in Dec 2025, a high court judge directed the hospital-based authorisation committee to give me permission for donation. It was a time-bound order, and the committee was directed to identify the top five candidates for donation within five weeks. The first recipient was declared unfit, and the second one, a 66-year-old woman, was fit for transplant. The surgery was approved on Feb 2, and I knew nothing about the patient until then. The surgery took place on Feb 10," she added.

"My long-held dream is fulfilled now. It's not just about donating a kidney but about wanting to spread the message. We need to create awareness, especially among young people, that it is completely safe to donate a kidney to unrelated persons, and telling them that a doctor did it will create confidence. Non-related person donation is common in other states, but we need it to gain momentum in Karnataka," Dr Thankam said.

The doctor is now 68 years old, and her kidney donation was not an isolated act of altruism. She also served with the international humanitarian organisation, Doctors Without Borders, for many years and completed missions in Yemen and Afghanistan, including a tour in March 2025.

Girl loses 2 fingers in school, severed parts dumped in bin

Slammed Door Caused Injury At Tumakuru

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IN PAIN: The incident took place when the first grader was waiting for her meal at the govt school in Guluru, Tumakuru district

As the girl's parents were informed of the incident late, valuable time was lost by when they reached the school. They rushed her to Tumakuru District Hospital, where doctors reportedly said reattachment might have been possible if the girl's fingers would have been retrieved promptly

Bengaluru: In a shocking case of alleged negligence, a six-year-old girl lost two fingers in a freak accident at a govt primary school on the outskirts of Tumakuru, about 35km from Bengaluru, and was reportedly left without immediate medical attention as she bled in pain.

The incident occurred on Feb 11 but came to light only now. The class 1 student was waiting in a queue for her midday meal on the school premises at Guluru when an iron classroom door was allegedly slammed on her hand, severing her two fingers. Despite heavy bleeding, teachers present at the school allegedly failed to rush her to a hospital.

What triggered outrage was the claim that the severed fingers were swept up and thrown into the waste bin. In their complaint, her parents, daily-wage construction workers, alleged that no attempt was made either to preserve the fingers or to arrange for emergency care.

As her parents were informed of the matter late, valuable time was lost when they reached the school. They rushed her to Tumakuru District Hospital, where doctors reportedly said reattachment might have been possible if the fingers were retrieved promptly.

When the parents returned to the school in search of the severed fingers, they were allegedly told that the staff disposed them of as the sight of blood frightened other students. The girl's family members also alleged that the school authorities transferred Rs 2,000 to her parents' account, appearing to wash their hands of the matter.

Following a complaint, Tumakuru Rural police registered an FIR against headmaster Nagesh, teachers Renukamma and Venkatesh, and block education officer Hanumanthappa for negligence and insensitive handling of the emergency.

The family members said the impact of the injury could have been less severe if the teachers had acted without delay. "If they responded immediately, the outcome might have been different," a relative said.

A senior Tumakuru district police officer said, "Based on the complaint by the kid's parents, we have registered the FIR. The parents have named a few teaching and non-teaching staffers. We are currently questioning them."

Veteran director Joe Simon dies at film chamber meet

Bengaluru: Veteran Kannada filmmaker **Joe Simon**, who directed several Sandalwood hits including Vishnuvardhan's "Sahasa Simha", died in the city Friday following cardiac arrest. He was 80.

Simon collapsed around 4.30pm during an emergency executive committee meeting at the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce here. "Shortly after stepping out of the meeting hall, he sat on the attendant's chair and he suddenly collapsed," a member of KFCC told TOI.

His movies include Hongkongnalli Agent Amar, Snehada Kadalalli and Ravivarma. TNN

Level-crossing glitches delay Dharwad VB by nearly 1 hour

Hubballi: Bengaluru-Dharwad Vande Bharat Express was detained at Gudageri level crossing gate Friday due to technical glitches in power supply, causing a 56-minute delay in reaching Hubballi.

Passengers said the train halted at Gudgeri for over half an hour and staff informed them of power-supply issues.

Staff rectified the glitches and the train arrived in Hubballi at 11.56am against its scheduled time of 11am, they added.

Sources in SWR said the train departed from Bengaluru city at 5.58am with a four-minute delay and was running eight minutes late up to Haveri. TNN

Karnataka unveils draft rules to protect good Samaritans, cover hospital costs

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Bengaluru: To encourage more citizens to step forward as good Samaritans and ensure hospitals provide crucial treatment during emergencies, the state govt unveiled draft rules under the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation During Emergency Situations) Act, 2018, to operationalise the existing law.

Under the Act, a good Samaritan is defined as a person who in good faith, without expectation of reward or payment and without any duty of care or special relationship, voluntarily comes forward to administer emergency care or assistance to an injured person to stabilise his/her condition. This could be a victim of an accident, crash, criminal incident or any other emergency situation.

Officially titled the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation During Emergency Situations) Rules, 2026, the draft was released for public feedback. One of the key provisions is the creation of a dedicated Good Samaritan Fund. Under the proposed rules, if a good Samaritan incurs travel expenses or wage loss exceeding Rs 500 to attend court or assist in legal proceedings, the court may order reimbursement from the dedicated fund.

Harsh Gupta, principal secretary, health department, said, "An emergency situation is broadly defined as one where the absence of medical care could result in loss of life or permanent incapacitation. In such cases, all public and private hospitals are required to provide first aid and basic stabilisation treatment."

To address concerns of private hospitals, the draft rules specify if treatment expenses cannot be recovered from the patient, the govt will bear the cost. "Expenses will be covered through Sayarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST). Empanelled hospitals will receive full reimbursement under Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (ABArK), while non-empanelled hospitals may be reimbursed at ABArK or PMJAY Health Benefit Package rates, whichever is higher," Gupta said.

The govt further proposed instituting a Good Samaritan Award, to be conferred annually on Jan 26. "All these rules were proposed with the aim of guaranteeing the right to treatment for every citizen of the state in an emergency," Gupta said.

KEY PROPOSALS

- Creation of Good Samaritan Fund
- Reimbursement of good Samaritan's expenses
- Guaranteed reimbursements to hospitals
- Institution of annual Good Samaritan Award

Arrested MLA to undergo heart check-up

Bengaluru: A local court Friday directed Criminal Investigation Department sleuths to get a detailed heart check-up done for arrested KR Pura MLA **BA Basavaraja.** Another accused in the rowdy murder case, advocate Ajit, has been sent to seven-day custody of CID police.

The CID, probing the murder of 41-year-old rowdy-shooter Bikku Shiva, arrested Basavaraja and Ajit Thursday evening after they landed at Kempegowda International Airport from Ahmedabad. The CID has already arrested 18 people in connection with the murder on July 15 last year.

The two accused were produced separately before the court Friday afternoon. First, Ajit was produced and CID requested his custody stating they needed to question him in detail. Basavaraja was produced later, and when CID again demanded his custody, his counsel said the BJP lawmaker had heart-related issues.

The court directed CID to shift the MLA to Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. TNN

Shivaratri: No sale of meat tomorrow

Bengaluru: Greater Bengaluru Authority imposed a ban on animal slaughter and sale of meat in shops Sunday because of Maha Shivaratri.

GBA deputy director (animal husbandry) issued the notice, seeking vendors' cooperation with authorities. TNN

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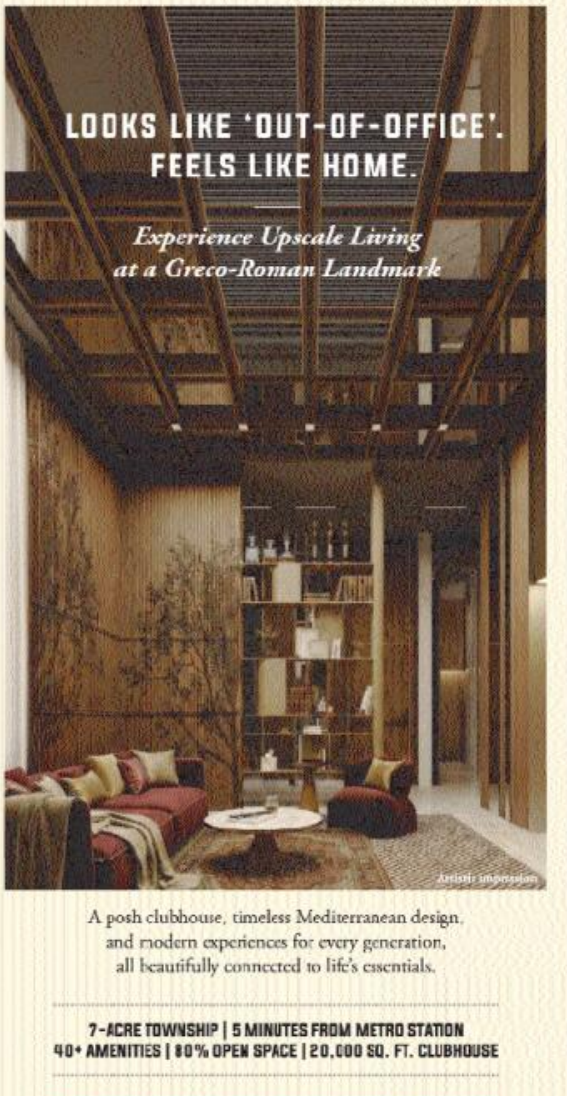

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1. Bid document may by purchased online from 18.02.2026 (11:30 hrs.) and last date for online bid submission is 09.03.2026 (12:30 hrs.)
2. Other details & Conditions may be seen in the detailed N.T, Tender Document for preparation of DPR of Roads/ CDs under PMGSY-IV Nov. 2025 as amended upto date available on E-Procurement System portal https://www.**mptenders.gov.in.**

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

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TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head of Account 4702 Plan work in Vijayanagar Dist., Kudligi Taluk 01 Work in Two Cover System Minimum Estimated amount put to tender Rs.240.83 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submit the tenders from **date : 07.02.2026 to 09.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 11.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 13.03.2026 at 11.00 hours.** Any other information should get by login the website "KPPP" website http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in

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Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites - www.tnpl.com / [illegible] https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1014/Tender/2026

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengalore-560040.

No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/03/2025-26
Date: 13.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Tenders on lumpsum basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Comprehensive development of Roads, drains and footpath in Govindrajnagar Constituency under CMIDP for the year 2025-26 (Package-GRN-1). **Estimate Cost : Rs. 20.00 Crores, EMD :Rs.56,000/-**
2.	Comprehensive development of Multipurpose Buildings and other allied works in Govindrajnagar Constituency under CMIDP for the year 2025-26 (Package-GRN-2). **Estimate Cost :Rs. 10.00 Crores, EMD :Rs.35,000/-**
3.	Comprehensive development of road, Buildings & other allied works in Govindrajnagar Constituency under CMIDP for the year 2025-26 (Package-GRN-3). **Estimate Cost :Rs. 10.00 Crores, EMD :Rs.36,500/-**
4.	Comprehensive development of Dhyanamandira and Prarthana mandira and other allied works in Govindrajnagar Constituency under CMIDP for the year 2025-26 (Package-GRN-4). **Estimate Cost :Rs. 10.00/- Crores, EMD :Rs.35,000/-**
5.	Comprehensive development of Arterial and Sub Arterial roads in Govindrajnagar Constituency for the year 2025-26 (Package-GRN-5). **Estimate Cost :Rs. 24.88 Crores, EMD :Rs.69,000/-**
6.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bed reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 135 Dr. Rajkumar Agraharadasarahalli. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.5,500/-**
7.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward No. 136 Govindarajanagara. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.5,500/-**
8.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 137 Marenahalli. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.5,500/-**
9.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 138, Kaveripura. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.5,500/-**
10.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 139 Mudalapalya. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.6,500/-**
11.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 140 Maruthimandira. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.6,500/-**
12.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 141 Nagarabhavi. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.6,500/-**
13.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 142 Chandralayout. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.6,500/-**
14.	Resurfacing to asphalt roads and repairs to concrete roads in bad reaches and improvements to drains and allied works in ward Jurisdiction in ward no 143 Nayandahalli. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 2.50 Crores, EMD :Rs.6,500/-**
15.	Improvement works in Buleward park at West of Chord road in Dr. Rajkumar Agrahara, dasarahalli ward -135. **Estimate Cost :Rs. 5.00 Crores, EMD :Rs.12,500/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre bid meeting is **25.02.2026 up to 15:30 hours (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **03-03-2026 up to 16:00 hours (3)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **04.03.2026 after 16:30 hours (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals : **will be intimated through KPP Portal.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, Zone-2,BWCC

Government of Karnataka
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

(Procurement and Distribution Section)
#8, Cunningham Road, 4th Floor, Sahakara Bhavan, Bengaluru-560052.
Website: www.ahara.kar.nic.in & www.neml.in
e-mail: indirafoodkit@gmail.com

No. 1/2025-26/ComFCS/IFK
Date:12.02.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

CORRIGENDUM FOR EXTENSION OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL BID FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOOD MATERIALS- TUR DAL, SUNFLOWER OIL, SUGAR AND IODIZED SALT UNDER ANNA BHAGYA SCHEME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA THROUGH E-AUCTION.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru, Government of Karnataka with reference to the earlier notification regarding submission of documents for the INDIRA Ahara Kit published **on 23.01.2026,** it is informed to all concerned that the last date for the submission of Technical Bid has been extended. The date of submission of Technical Bids which was previously fixed as **13.02.2026 till 5:30 P.M.** has been extended to **23.02.2026 till 5:30 P.M.** The details of which will be uploaded in the website: **www.neml.in.**

For further information, if any, please contact NCDEX e Markets Ltd Toll-Free No. 1800-210-1222 or e-mail at **askus@neml.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner,
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-2311584, e-mail: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

No: HFWS-NCFOODTHR(OTHR)/15/2026 (E-205038)
Date: 13.02.2026

Tender through e-Procurement, Notification and Invitation for quotation

"For Appointment of Statutory Auditor and Concurrent auditor for State Health Society (SHS), Concurrent auditor for District Health Society (DHS) and Statutory Auditor for KSHSRC, for the Audit of all programmes under Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, KSHSRC, National Health Programme and Urban Health Mission."

National Health Mission invites "For Appointment of Statutory Auditor and Concurrent auditor for State Health Society (SHS), Concurrent auditor for District Health Society (DHS) and Statutory Auditor for KSHSRC, for the Audit of all programmes under Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, KSHSRC, National Health Programme and Urban Health Mission."

Ref No./ Not. No.:	1. **NHM/2025-26/SE0037-Statutory Auditor for KSHFWS.** 2. **NHM/2025-26/SE0038-Concurrent Auditor for KSHFWS FY 25-26.** 3. Invitation of quotation for Statutory Auditor, KSHSRC as prescribed in NHM website Notification No: **HFWS-KSHSOFILE/2/2026-KSHSRC, Date:13.02.2026** 4. Letter of Invitation for Concurrent Auditor, DHS as prescribed in NHM website Notification No: **HFWS-NCFOODTHR(OTHR)/1/2021, Date:16.02.2026**

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and The Invitation for Tender document can be downloaded through "e-procurement portal" from Dt:**13.02.2026** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **Dt: 25.02.2026 at 05.30 PM.** LOI and Invitation of quotation can be downloaded from website **https://nhm.karnataka.gov.in** Interested bidders may participate by submitting their quotations on or before the prescribed last date.

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from **11:00 am to 04:30 pm.**

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)

DIPR/CP/SA/0003/2025-26

Rajasthan Samwad

Department of Information and Public Relation, Secretariat, Jaipur (Raj.) – 302005
Tel. No. 0141-2227325
E-mail: rajasthansamwad2002@gmail.com

No. :- 13
Jaipur, Date :- 13.02.2026

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Rajasthan Samwad is an autonomous body working for Advertisements, Media and Publicity, under the aegis of INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, Rajasthan, invites Expression of Interest for **Rate Contract with Agencies working in the field of Rental Sole Right Media Sites for Hiring of Rental Sites (Auto Rickshaw /Cycle Rickshaw/Train Coach/Train inside Sticker/Metro Train Coach/Metro Station/AirPort/Post Office/BPL/IOCL/ HPCL & Other Petrol Pumps/ CNG Stations /Digital Display Screen under CSC E-Vigyapan Project/ Railway Station Pillar board, Sign Board, Display Board/ATM Machine/Bus Stand Pillar board, Sign Board, Display Board/LED Screen, 3D LED Screen & any other Rental Sole Right Outdoor Media Sites etc.) for various schemes of State Government.** The estimated value of work will be rupees 50 Crores for Two years.

Interested agencies can send their EXPRESSION OF INTEREST including Proposal, sole right media list and consent letter of concerning department. A brief note consisting of background, scope of work, procedure etc is enclosed as Annexure-A. The document can be downloaded from DIPR website www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in.

The interested agencies can send their EXPRESSION OF INTEREST with required information mentioned in Annexure A, by 05.03.2026 at 03:00 PM **Rajasthan Samwad, Information and Public Relations Department, Secretariat Jaipur - 302005 in hard copy or e-mail at rajasthansamwad2002@gmail.com in soft copy.**

UBN NO. IPR2526SLRC00032

Managing Director
Rajasthan Samwad

Raj Samwad/C/25/19014

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

[illegible]

[illegible] 2025-26/4989 [illegible] 12-02-2026

[illegible]

[illegible] 31110, 31144, 32609, 32611, 31106, 32593, 33293, 33063, 31529, 31548 & 30576 [illegible] 30778, [illegible] 30703

[illegible]

[illegible] http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

[illegible] 33885

[illegible]

[illegible] http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

[illegible]

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)

टेलीफैक्स - 0135 - 2522941
ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com
CIN No - U45203UR2005SGC032091

ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
[illegible] देहरादून- 248001

Ref 298/BRIDCUL- 1041/26
Dated: 13/02/2026

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In lac Including GST)	Earnest Money(In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/ HQ DDN/81/2025-26	Construction of Proposed Residence Quarters at District Jail Campus Haridwar (Civil Work)	1663.16	33.27	5000 + 18% GST	10 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is **14.02.2026** and Bid submission end date is **27.02.2026** at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above work can be obtained directly from website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

Changes, if any will be intimated only through website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

General Manager(Civil)-II

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)

MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD

Indian Mercantile Chambers, 2nd Floor, Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai- 400 001. Tel.: 022-69041777 Fax: 022-69041740
Website: https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.i
Email: ceo.mmb@maharashtra.gov.in/ceommb@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice - (Year 2025-26)/Reg no.2/89

Main Portal: https://mahatenders.gov.in

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approximately Tender Cost in Rs. Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of Work
1.	Construction of Slopping ramp and approach road at Sapad Tal. Kalyan Dist. Thane.	1,42,09,102/-	1,42,500/-	1,180/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in from 13.02.2026 at 17:00 hrs. up to 20.02.2026 at 17:00 hrs. (IST). The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai.

DGIPR/2025-2026/5815

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
BUILDING AND ROADS (SOUTH) DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No. 1630/PWB/BRS/DB/D4/F.No.852/NABD/25-26
Puducherry, the 13/02/2026

SHORT PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India, tenders are invited through e-Tendering by the Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (South), Public Works Department, Puducherry, for the following work

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Minimum Bid Amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Schedule (Rs.)	Time allowed	Eligibility of Contractors
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	102 / PWI BRS/ 25-26	Construction of retaining wall at Pinnatchikuppam road and U drain at Kirumampakkam road in Bahour Commune, Puducherry	6,18,24,568/- (Inclusive of GST)	12,36,491/-	1500/- + GST @5%	9 (Nine) Months (Including Monsoon period)	Class I

The e-tender detailed procedure is available in the short press notice which can be downloaded along with the NIT from the **www.pudutenders.gov.in** only by those Contractors who are having valid i-key and Digital Signature Certificate.

(i) Availability of NIT from **10.00 AM** on **15.02.2026** to **4.00 P.M.** on **02.03.2026** and Closing time for submission of e-tender **at 4.30 PM.**

(ii) Time & Date of Opening of tender **10.30 AM** on **03.03.2026**

Please contact ICICI BANK for e-payment help desk guidance in Phone No. 8933202113. Please contact e-Procurement cell, 3rd floor, Chief Secretariat, e-tender help desk for guidance in Phone No. 0413-2220225 & 1800 3070 2232 (Toll Free) mail id : **Support-eproc.pon@nic.in**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

25001/187/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR

1st Corrigendum Notice
No.828 dated: 11.02.2026

The 1st Corrigendum to the Bid Identification No. **BLGR-Online-37/2025-26**, the revised Date & Time for the above mentioned Bid Identification No. as follows:

REVISED DATE & TIME

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
3	4	5	6	7
10.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M	25.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	26.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

N.B. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Bolangir

OIPR-25001/25/18/1/25-26/0019

25001/186/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR

1st Corrigendum Notice
No.834 dated: 11.02.2026

The 1st Corrigendum to the Bid Identification No. **BLGR-Online-38/2025-26**, the revised Date & Time for the above mentioned Bid Identification No. as follows:

REVISED DATE & TIME

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
3	4	5	6	7
10.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M	25.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.02.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	26.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

N.B. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Bolangir

OIPR-25001/25/18/1/33-26/0018

34001/80/2526

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel.: (0674)-2391323

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. [illegible]-Sports-12/2023 [illegible] / Bhubaneswar, the 13th Feb., 2026

Invitation for Bids 1st Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. C.E. (B) - 46 / 2025-26

Name of the Works : (1) Construction of Block Level Stadium with Indoor Hall in Binjharpur Block under Jajpur District.,
(2) Construction of Block Level Stadium with Indoor Hall in Dharmasala Block under Jajpur District.
(3) "Construction of Block Level Stadium with Indoor Hall in Korei Block under Jajpur District".

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 46/2025-26

1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in, during the period from dt. 25.02.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt. 12.03.2026 instead of dt.12.02.2026 to dt. 27.02.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt. 12.03.2026 instead of dt. 27.02.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt. 13.03.2026 instead of dt. 02.03.2026.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-I,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34001/24/17/1/23-26/0005

TAMIL NADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED

TASMAC
(Undertaking of Tamil Nadu Government)
[illegible]

Tender ID: [illegible]
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Date: [illegible]

[illegible]

Sl. No.	Tender Bid Type	Place	Date	Time
1.	Technical Bid	Senior Regional Manager Office, [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.	Financial Bid		[illegible]	

DIPR/[illegible]
[illegible]
TASMAC Ltd., Salem.

TAMIL NADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LTD.,

TASMAC
(Undertaking of Tamil Nadu Government)
[illegible]

Tender ID: [illegible]
Date: [illegible]

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

[illegible]

S.No	Tender Bid Type	Tender Opening Details: Place	Date	Time
1.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	

DIPR/[illegible]
[illegible]

Amul CHOCOLATE

A gift for someone you love

This Valentine's Day, gift your love the sweetest treat ever.
Explore the delicious range of Amul Chocolate and fall in love with every bite.

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Amul Milk Chocolate Happy Birthday 150 g | ₹ 200*
Amul Sugar Free Dark Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Hazelnut Dark Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 220*
Amul Tropical Orange Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Dark Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Truffles 308 g | ₹ 210*
Amul Chocomivits 250 g | ₹ 130*
Amul 99% Cocoa Chocolate 125 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Bitter 90% Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Belgian Chocolate 125 g | ₹ 160*
Amul Milk Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 180*
Amul Velvett Milk Chocolate 150 g | ₹ 200*
Amul India Origin Dark Chocolate 125 g | ₹ 200*
Amul India Origin Milk Chocolate 125 g | ₹ 200*
Amul Almondo 200 g | ₹ 210*
Amul Dark Emerald 308 g | ₹ 210*

*MRP | Incl. of all taxes | T&C Apply

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the Property described in the Schedule herein from Smt. Bachchamma, Daughter of late Sri. Appalanna alias Munishamappa, wife of late Sri. Munikrishna alias Krishnappa, No.56, Bommenahalli, Mandur, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 049, who has represented that she acquired the Schedule land as per the bequest made in the Will dated 07/10/1995 registered as Document No.75/1995-97 in Book-III Volume 10 at Pages 181 to 183, in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka executed by her father Sri. Appalanna alias Munishamappa. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title, interest or ownership or any other right or claim in the Schedule Property including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceeds to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE

All that portion of Property measuring 19 Guntas in Sy.No.90/3 situated at Singahalli also known as Bhiganahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore and bounded by:

East : Road and Kandenahalli Village boundary;
West : Properties in Sy.Nos.88/4 and 91;
North : Property in Sy.No.90/7; and
South : Remaining portion of Property in Sy.No.90/3.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK
Advocates,
No. 101, "EDEN PARK"
No.20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bangalore-560 001.
Tel : 080-22217671
Bangalore Date: 13/02/2026.

TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE
BITS BioCyTiH Foundation
Invites BIDS for following equipments & upcoming tenders.
1) Plasma ALD (Atomic Layer Deposition)
2) Metal 3D Printer
3) Nanoimprint Lithography
Details at https://biocyth.co.in/tender-ongoing/

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

ANJANAPURA

SALE BDA 30x40sft Anjanapura 8th G Block South facing 40x60sft west facing commercial site 2nd Block. Contact [illegible]

BDA SITE FOR SALE Anjanapura 8th Block 30x40 & Anjanapura 1st Block 40x60 North. Contact: [illegible]

BANASHANKARI

40x60, West facing site for sale at, Banashankari 6th stage, 4th B Block, call [illegible]

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B blk 42x80 west facing 3.10Cr also 48x60 south facing 6th blk, 2.50cr behind 100ft Road, site owners [illegible]

MARS PLANET 2, 2.5 & 3 BHK Flats On Hills of BSK 3rd stage, Opp. to Tata Promont [illegible]

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE 30x40 ANY FACE. DIRECT REGISTRATION. SELLERS IMMEDIATELY CALL : MANOJ - [illegible]

20X30 and 30X40 BDA Sites in Banashankari 6th Stage 11th Block Excellent Location Available for sale Pls contact [illegible]

BANASWADI

WE WANT TO PURCHASE FLAT NEW OR OLD 2 OR 3 BHK FLAT "A KHATA" IN & AROUND BANASWADI/ KALYAN NAGAR: [illegible]

BANNERGHATTA ROAD

30X40'_TWO_ADJACENT Residential Plots For Sale West Facing Located in Arekere Shanthiniketan Layout. Call Owner [illegible]

BENSON TOWN

PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 8balcony +terrace, 3300 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, Bsn Cunghum. [illegible] www.govians.com

BTM LAYOUT

BTM 2nd stage, Flats for Sale, 2 BHK A&B katha 1000sft, Rs 75 Lakhs, 3 BHK fully furnished 1650 sft Rs. 10 Lakhs, Old House 30x40- 1800sft, 3 floor, Rs. 3 Cr 30 Lakhs (Nego), Rajareddy [illegible]

BTM Layout 30x40 & 40x60 sites For sale & Rental incoming building & Duplex House Available call : [illegible]

3000 Sqft BBMP E Katha South Facing Site For Sale In BTM 4th Stage Devarachikanahalli Price 11000/- Per Sqft. Contact Owner: [illegible]

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

4BHK 3Balcony, 1unit/ floor, 3200sft High end Flats Govians Cunningham, 10min fm Cunningham Rd. Last 1unit avlb. [illegible], www.govians.com

SADHWANIS 3BHK Apartment for sale at Cunningham Road 4100sft Price 12Cr. Excellent Location Location Location Contact - [illegible]

DEVANAHALLI

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVANAHALLI LAND Located in Airport City Vision Layout-4
BIAPPA APPROVED 60X40 Plot on 30ft Tar Road, Clear Title, Serious Investors only. Brokers Excuse. Cntct: [illegible] Timings 4-6 pm only

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HBR LAYOUT

SALE Building with 2BHK flats Stilt+4 at Hennur North west for sale. HBR (BDA) 5th blk, high returns on investment, Nr Manyata tech park & ring rd. [illegible]

HBR layout 2 BHK 1101 sqft flat East & North facing BDA plot 40ft Road, 24hrs water RO, behind Nagawara KEB office Nr Ring Rd. Call-[illegible]

2400SFT building BDA Property for Sale @ HBR Layout 5th blk Near Hennur & Metro station, Brokers excuse. Call : [illegible]

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HORAMAVU Sale 2 BHK Flat 1132 Sqft, Car Parking, East Facing, P & T Layout. Near to Chaitanya School and Main Road. Ph: [illegible]

HRBR LAYOUT

SALE HRBR BDA site 40X70 E/F. Kalkere & kammanahalli Main Rd Commercial Building 40X60 rental income 5 Lakhs. price: Rs8.5cr. Call [illegible]

HORAMAVU Main Rd Sale Commercial New Building site 5800 sqft Corner Building G+ 4th F. Rental Income 4 Lakhs. Price : 13.75cr. Call: [illegible]

HSR LAYOUT

HSR 7th Sector Near BDA Complex SALE 40X60 West Facing PLOT Excellent Location affordable Price only genuine buyers call [illegible]

BDA Site 4000 Sq.Ft for sale in HSR, Bangalore, Posh Locality, Architect Planned Vastu compliant duplex house. 27K Per sq.ft Nego, [illegible]

HSR Sale 40X60 Brand new house GF 3BHK, FF 3BHK, 2nd floor 3BHK, 5 car parking Built up area 4200sft on 40ft Rd @ 7th sector. Rs.8.5cr. Ct: [illegible]

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SALE JAYANAGAR 40x60 North Facing 4BHK House BDA Property Price 5.2CR & 3BHK Flats East Facing 3CR, Call Classic Harsh: [illegible].

EAST and main road Office space 1100sqft First floor unfurnished immediate occupation. Ph [illegible]

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SAHAKARA NAGAR

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BANGALORE

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PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

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LOCATION: #272, Vishalmart Building, Jigani - Anekal Main Road, near APC Circle, Bangalore-560105

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: [illegible]

SAHAKARNAGAR Commercial retail space sale, tenant paying 2.2L per flr, 3000 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: [illegible]

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96 WORK Stations 5 Cab 3 Meeting Room 1 Board 1 MD, 6 Carparks No Phone Calls Whats App Message Only To: [illegible]

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PRIME RETAIL Space Ground Floor & Upper Ground Floor. Contact : [illegible]

Available Office Space fully-Furnished 3500sft 60 work station, 3 Office Rooms, 1 Conference Room, 1 server room, 4 toilets with ups & generator 3rd floor M.R.Complex 1st sector 27th main HSR Layout Bangalore.

AND 1ST Floor 3000 Sqft and 2nd Floor 3000 Sqft Available in Kodihalli above Axis Bank, for Rent. Contact: [illegible]

YELAHANKA Commercial retail space for sale, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale: [illegible]

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

MAHA DCM SUNETRA PAWAR WILL TAKE OVER AS NCP NAT'L PRESIDENT SOON, SAYS PRAFUL PATEL

VIJAY SAYS TVK MAY LACK POLITICAL EXPERIENCE, BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE EXPERIENCE IN LOOTING

TN CM credits ₹5k each to 1.3cr women beneficiaries

Stalin Alleges Attempt To Scuttle Scheme

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The DMK govt in Tamil Nadu on Friday sprang a surprise by crediting Rs 5,000 each to the bank accounts of 1.31 crore beneficiaries of the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam.

Chief minister M K Stalin justified the populi move, saying the sum was credited in advance as there was an attempt to scuttle the scheme citing the election code of conduct.

In an early morning video statement, Stalin said his govt had deposited the Rs 1,000 monthly entitlement for Feb along with advance payments for March and April. In addition, a special summer assistance of Rs 2,000 was credited.

The special summer component alone entails an additional expenditure of around Rs 2,000 crore by the state govt, while the total outgo for the consolidated payment accounted for an approximate Rs 6,450 crore.

"We are receiving information that a group in Delhi, along with another group in Tamil Nadu that acts as their slave, is conspiring to halt this scheme for the next three months citing the elections. There are also reports that some are attempting to approach court," Stalin said.

"How will you manage your monthly expenses (if the disbursement is halted)? Will you be able to buy medicines for the sick in your family? Can you meet your children's educational expenses during the exam season," he asked. By the time the announcement was made, at around 7.45am, many beneficiaries had received the amount, while others saw their accounts being credited with the money through the day.

CM M K Stalin greets women party cadres amid the rollout of the Kalaignar Women's Entitlement Scheme in Chennai on Friday

The CM also announced that if DMK returns to govt, the monthly entitlement would be doubled to Rs 2,000. "This is the promise given by Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, who fulfils what he says," he added. On questions about the feasibility of the promise, Stalin said similar doubts were raised when the scheme was first introduced but the govt had implemented it successfully despite financial constraints. Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam was announced by Stalin as a poll promise in 2021 and was rolled out in 2023.

He said the DMK govt had achieved economic growth that was not seen under the previous govt. "So, irrespective of the obstacles that come our way, we will overcome them," he said.

Later in the day, chief minister Stalin handed over appointment orders to 9,801 people who were recruited to various govt depts through TNPSC and other recruitment boards. Stalin said the govt had recruited 96,191 employees through govt recruitment boards in the past four-and-a-half years.

Alliance and cash will not help DMK in polls: Vijay

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Salem: TVK president, Vijay, said on Friday that alliance arithmetic and cash distribution would not help the DMK front in the forthcoming assembly elections, stating that his entry into electoral politics has changed the political landscape of Tamil Nadu.

"Any dreams of burying votes by giving money will not work after my entry," Vijay said at a public meeting in Salem, hours after the state govt credited Rs 5,000 to beneficiaries of the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam. "They will offer Rs 1,000, Rs 2,000, or even Rs 5,000 and try to extract a promise from you to vote for them. That's how they have duped you all these years. Receive the money, but respond to them by blowing the whistle in their ears," he said, adding that the practice of "burying votes with money" must end.

Responding to criticism that he is targeting only the DMK while sparing other parties, Vijay said he did not wish to speak about those "defeated by the people". The coming election, he said, is about removing the incumbent party. "It is the DMK that is in office. It is the DMK that is deceiving people with false promises and running an anti-people govt. That is the party that must be removed," he said.

PM: Seva Teerth to advance ambitions of 140 cr citizens

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After 78 years, the nerve centre of the central govt on Friday moved from South Block to Seva Teerth, the new sand stone structure that now houses the PMO, following a cabinet meeting in the British-era building where proposals worth over Rs 1.5 lakh crore were taken up.

The proposals included construction of an underwater road-cum-rail tunnel across the Brahmaputra, multiple highway and railway projects and a new Metro link in Noida, and approval of the Urban Challenge Fund to promote sustainable urbanisation.

Speaking after the inauguration of Seva Teerth and two newly built Kartavya Bhawans, Modi said in the past 11 years, a new model of governance has emerged where citizens are at the centre of decision-making. "The decisions made here (new buildings) will serve as the foundation for advancing the ambitions of 140 crore citizens, rather than reflecting the will of a monarch," PM said in a reference to the South Block's colonial origins.

The history of the PMO traces to a small PM Secretariat (PMS) in 1947 to provide basic administrative help to the PM. Modi said South Block and North Block, which till now housed important ministries like defence, home and finance, besides the PMO, were built to embody the ideals of the British Empire, but the new ones have been built to realise the aspirations of Indians. He added that after independence, many important decisions were made and key policies were developed within the iconic buildings. "It is is important to remember that these structures were originally built as symbols of the British," he said, adding that India's capital moved from Kolkata to buildings on Raisina Hill that were built according to the wishes of the British royalty.

NEW BEGINNINGS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of 'Seva Teerth', the new building of the Prime Minister's Office, in New Delhi on Friday

He said as the nation moves towards a Viksit Bharat, it is vital that India sheds every trace of colonial mindset and the mentality of slavery. "It is unfortunate that even after independence, symbols of slavery have continued to be carried here," he said.

PM said that renaming of places and roads, including Rajpath to Lok Kalyan Marg and Kartavya Path, respectively, were not only a change of name, but an effort to transform the mindset of power into a spirit of service. On the significance of the day — Vijaya Ekadashi — Modi said any resolve taken on this day always leads to victory.

Incidentally, on Feb 13, 1931, Delhi was inaugurated as the new capital of India after it was shifted from Kolkata. Urging govt employees to put in their best, Modi said India's identity will not be defined only by its economy, but by the quality of governance, the clarity of policies, and the dedication of 'karmayogis (employees)'.

PM to land on Assam highway today as roads turn runways

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: When Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aboard a C-130J Super Hercules of the Indian Air Force (IAF), touches down on a national highway at Meran in Assam's Dibrugarh district on Saturday, it will mark more than the inauguration of the Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF). It will be a moment when India's highways become runways — symbols of strength, speed, and sovereignty, ready to project power.

Barely 300km from the LAC with China, Meran's ELF is positioned as a frontline asset. The PMO said ELF "will serve as a critical asset for strategic requirements and emergency response during natural disasters".

"The ELF has been specially designed and constructed in coordination with the Indian Air Force to support landing and take-off of military and civil aircraft during emergencies," the Prime Minister's Office added.

This 4.2km stretch dual-use ELF is capable of handling fighter aircraft with up to 40 tonnes and transport aircraft with up to 74 tonnes of maximum take-off weight.

Across the border, the Chinese have already tested fighter landings on Tibet's Lhasa-Nyingchi highway and operate dual-use airports like Nyingchi, just 50km from the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.

Night of fury: Elephants kill 6 in J'khand village

Vishvendu Jaipuriar & Abhijit Sen | TNN

Hazaribag: Six people, including four members of a family and two toddlers, were trampled to death early Friday by wild elephants in a village of Jharkhand's Hazaribag district. The attacks in Gondwar Tola hamlet of Churchu block between 1am and 2 am, when most villagers were asleep, were one of the worst in the district in the recent past, officials said. The jumbo fury came less than a month after a rogue elephant killed at least 20 people in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, around 290km away.

Villagers said the elephants in Hazaribag uprooted the gate of one house and barged inside before trampling those attempting to flee. "People were in deep sleep when the jumbos entered. By the time we realised what was happening, the elephants were already inside the houses," a resident said. The five jumbos initially destroyed the mud house of Dhaneshwar Ram (62) and crushed him to death when he tried to flee the collapsing structure. The other deceased were identified as Suman Kumari (26), Savita Devi (25), Suraj Ram (30), and two children — Anurag Ram (1) and Sanjana Kumari (3).

Locals tried to drive the herd away by raising an alarm, but the elephants remained in the vicinity for a considerable time, spreading panic across the village.

Residents alleged that around 18 elephants moved into the area over the past few weeks, damaging crops and houses. They claimed repeated pleas to authorities for preventive measures went unheard. Later, scores of villagers staged protests demanding compensation for the families of the deceased and protection from ferocious herds when forest ranger Vijay Kumar reached the spot to take stock of the situation.

4 mistake chemical for liquor, die after drinking it in Raj

Sumbul Tripathi | TNN

Bhilwara: Four members of a family, including three women, died in Aloli village in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district Friday after allegedly consuming a fuel chemical used for heating food, after mistaking it for liquor, officials said. Bhilwara Police said the chemical substance was "methanol organic salt."

The victims — Ratan Kanjar (49), Sushila Devi (48), Jasni Devi (62) and Badami Devi Kanjar (68), all residents of Aloli — had been working on contract as dishwashers at a wedding ceremony for the past three days. Late Thursday, they brought the chemical from the wedding venue to their home and drank it, after which their condition deteriorated, and they died.

A case was registered against shop owner Anuj (38) for allegedly not having a valid license to sell chemicals. During the investigation, a team led by the drug controller officer reached the shop and seized 20 bottles of methanol. The shopkeeper was being questioned as part of the investigation.

A forensic team reached the spot and collected evidences. Post-mortems were conducted by a medical board, and the bodies were handed over to family members for last rites. Bhilwara district collector Jasmeet Singh Sandhu and SP Dharmendra Singh Yadav visited the village along with teams from the excise and the medical departments. The collector directed health check-ups for residents in every house in the village.

No permanent friends or foes in today's world: CDS

Sandip.Digho@timesofindia.com

Pune: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday cautioned against relying on the traditional notion of permanent friends or adversaries, saying that in today's rapidly evolving global security environment, such assumptions are increasingly unreliable.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Southern Command, he said strategic alignments across the world are becoming fluid, transactional and driven by short-term national interests, making it difficult to clearly define allies, adversaries or partners in advance. "In today's world, it is increasingly difficult to define who are your friends, who are your allies, who are your adversaries and who are your enemies," the CDS said, underlining India must be prepared mentally, structurally and numerically to act independently whenever national interests demand.

He said partnerships remain valuable but cannot substitute for indigenous capability or strategic autonomy. "Partnerships are effective only when they align with national interests. They cannot replace the freedom of choice that comes from self-reliance," he said.

Highlighting the changing character of global geopolitics, the CDS pointed to the rise of coercive nationalism and economic weaponisation, where trade, supply chains, technology access, data and critical resources are increasingly used as tools of strategic leverage.

Woman, lover held for killing hubby, staging it as suicide

Sudeep.Lavania@timesofindia.com

Agra: A 28-year-old woman and her lover have been arrested for allegedly smothering her 24-year-old husband with a pillow and then hanging the body with a saree to make it look like it's a case of suicide in Uttar Pradesh's Agra district, police said on Friday.

On Feb 12, the father of Lavkesh Tomar, a resident of Lodhai village in Agra, had filed a complaint that his son was murdered by his wife and her lover, said Ekta police station SHO Hansraj Bhadauria. An FIR was registered under BNS sections 103(1)-(murder), 238 (destroying evidence).

"A police team reached the house, inspected the crime scene and took the deceased's wife, Gaurt, into police custody after questioning her," police said.

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STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How communities stack up in college faculties

The general category makes up the majority of the teaching staff in colleges, with OBCs a distant second, shows UGC data

Note: Teachers include professors, associate professors and assistant professors
Source: UGC Annual Report 2023-24

HC dismisses divorce plea of 75-yr-old man

Ashish Mehta
@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: The Rajasthan high court dismissed a divorce appeal filed by a 75-year-old retired govt school principal stressing that long-standing marriages cannot be dissolved over late-life property disputes. HC upheld a family court's decision that rejected his plea and said trivial irritations and quarrels ordinarily happen in most families, and do not constitute a ground for cruelty to pass a decree of divorce.

The couple got married on June 29, 1967 and on May 26, 2014, the husband applied for divorce. The family court rejected it in 2019. The couple has three children — two 2 sons and a daughter — who are now married.

On Feb 9, a bench of Justice Sudesh Bansal and Justice Anil Kumar Upman held that no case of cruelty was made out.

"It was argued that the wife lodged FIR against him in 2014 for dowry harassment and other offences, which he claimed caused him humiliation and mental harassment after retirement. However, police later submitted a negative final report, indicating that no offence was established," said Mohit Khandelwal, the appellant's counsel.

Khandelwal also cited a dispute over family property, alleging his wife intended to transfer an immovable property to their elder son alone, whereas he wanted it divided equally between both sons. The court said the the dispute was primarily due to division of property.

HC puts UP cops in dock over non-execution of warrants

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has come down heavily on Uttar Pradesh police over repeated instances of non-execution of the non-bailable warrants (NBW) issued by the court. The HC was hearing a matter in which cops in Gautam Budh Nagar and Hapur have failed to execute an NBW.

The court had summoned the police chiefs of both cities and both attended the hearing on Thursday. The next hearing is on March 23.

Hearing a criminal appeal filed in 2019 by Kaushal Kishore alias Baba on Thursday, a division bench of Justices Salil Kumar Rai and Satya Veer Singh observed, "In case NBWs issued by the court are not executed within time, police personnel/officers concerned shall be held accountable by the police administration of the district and suitable action be taken against them."

During the previous hearing in the case, the court had noted a glaring contradiction — police report said NBW could not be executed because the appellant's address could not be verified while the appellant's own affidavit stated that police had indeed visited his house to inform him of the warrant.

On Thursday, both police chiefs filed personal affidavits detailing steps taken by the administration against the police personnel responsible for returning the non-bailable warrant and failing to execute the warrant. The court then said it does not propose further action.

SC to Rahman: Acknowledge & show respect to Jr Dagar Bandhu's work

Court: Dagar Bandhu's Contribution To Indian Classical Music Is Immense

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar had accused Rahman of infringing copyright over 'Shiva Stuti' composed by his father Ustad Faiyazuddin Dagar and uncle Zahiruddin Dagar

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday told celebrated music composer A R Rahman to show respect and acknowledge contributions of legendary Junior Dagar Bandhu's contribution to Dhrupad tradition of Indian classical music even as their heir accused Rahman of infringing copyright over 'Shiva Stuti' composition by its unauthorised use in his 'Veera Raja Veera'.

Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar had filed a suit seeking to injunct Rahman from using 'Shiva Stuti', which he claimed to have been originally composed by Ustan Faiyazuddin Dagar and his brother Zahiruddin Dagar. He said he still holds copyright over 'Shiva Stuti' which was composed by his father and his father's brother.

The plaintiff had said that during the playout of the song 'Veera Raja Veera' across all modes and mediums including digital, internet, OTT platforms, satellite, cable television etc, credit to Dagar Brothers should be given.

Delhi HC's Justice Prathiba Singh had asked the existing credit line 'Composition based on a Dagarvani Tradition Dhrupad' be replaced with 'Composition based on Shiva Stuti by Late Ustad Faiyazuddin Dagar, Late Ustad Zahiruddin Dagar'.

The four defendants including Rahman were asked to deposit Rs 2 crore each, total amount to Rs 8 crore, subject to outcome of the suit. A division bench of the HC had set aside the interim directions – change of credit and deposit of Rs 2 crore each by defendants – saying Dagar failed to establish prima facie proof of authorship or originality of 'Shiva Stuti'.

A SC bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi told Rahman's counsel A M Singhvi that so far as originality of the composition, the plaintiff has made out a case. But the issue of authorship, we will examine, it said. However, both the CJI and Justice Bagchi were unequivocal about the immense contributions made by Dagar Bandhu to Indian classical music and said, "Without their and other exponents' contributions to the classical music, do you think the modern singers would have survived?"

The bench remarked that the division bench could have avoided observations it had made in the judgment and told Singhvi that "instead of going into legal niceties, you could give some respect to them. They are not in commercial competition with you. All, they want is some respect and acknowledgement."

The bench also hinted at Singhvi's familiarity with classical music, to which he said that he is married to one who has expertise in it. However, Singhvi said that he would take instructions from his clients and respond to the court's suggestions on Feb 20.

Why not ask HCs in Assam and Manipur to monitor ethnic clash cases, asks SC

Times News Network

ETHNIC CLASHES

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday said it would be better for the Gauhati and Manipur high courts to monitor the progress in investigations and trial in cases arising from the Kuki-Meitei ethnic clashes, which broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023 and continue to simmer through sporadic incidents of violence.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi told the petitioners' counsel, representing Kuki and Meitei communities, that it would be logistically better for the Gauhati and Manipur HCs to monitor the cases. SC had transferred trials in certain cases from Manipur to Gauhati as witnesses had expressed unwillingness to travel from Imphal to tribal areas and vice-versa fearing danger to their lives.

Senior advocate Vrinda Grover told the bench that CBI, to which the cases relating to sexual assault of two women were entrusted on SC orders in July 2023, made no attempt to inform the rape survivors of the progress in the trial, which could have saved one of the women from death. "They had no idea what happened to the accused," she said.

The bench asked CBI to submit a status report of the cases entrusted to it. When senior advocate Colin Gonsalves argued on behalf of the Manipur Tribal Forum, solicitor general Tushar Mehta opposed it, saying this outfit has been indicted by the SC appointed committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal on the ground that it has been attempting to derail peace processes and instigating innocent people to indulge in violence.

SC asked the parties to respond to its suggestion to entrust the HCs with the task of monitoring the cases and posted the matter for further hearing on Feb 26.

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I, RAJESH H S/o HALDORAI R, residing at No. 37, 7th Cross, Subashchandra Bose Road, Doddabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura, M S Palya, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560097, have changed the name of my minor daughter DHANYA, aged 18 years and she shall hereafter be known as DHANYA RAJESH.

I Naveen Kumar P. aged about 48 yrs S/o Puttaswamy K. residing No.7,1st Flr, 18th main Road, J.C.Nagara Mahalakshmipuram Bengaluru-86 have changed my name to NAVEEN KUMAR P. vide affidavit dated 13/02/2026 sworn before notary K.P.Ramesh.

I, Laxmi Kabburmath D/o Shri Panchakshari Kabburmath R/o [illegible], Sumadhura Srinivasam Apartments, Euro School Road, Hoodi 560048 I have changed my name from Laxmi Kabburmath Panchakshari to Laxmi Kabburmath for all the Purposes.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINOD WADHWA J. S/o Jayaramdas Residing at No. 13/1, 4th A Cross, Benappa Garden, Pipeline, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560 003 have changed my name to VINOD JAYARAMDAS vide Affidavit date. 13.02.2026 sworn before notary M S Satish, Bangalore

I, Prasanna Kumar G S/O Gopal R/O Malligemma Layout, Attibele Road, Anekal Town, Anekal, P.O. Anekal, Dist. Bengaluru (Karnataka) have changed my name to DHRUV forever.

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Vande Mataram critics have no place in India: Yogi

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh chief minister **Yogi Adityanath** said on Friday that those who oppose Vande Mataram have no right to live in India.

Speaking in the assembly during the Budget session, Yogi accused SP and Congress of practising appeasement politics and obstructing both development and cultural resurgence in the state.

"Certain political groups sat from India but refuse to sing Vande Mataram," Yogi said, questioning their commitment to the nation. He accused previous SP-led govts of stalling the development of Ayodhya and Mathura and opposing religious events such as the Kanwar Yatra and Deepotsav. He accused the opposition of opposing national songs such as Vande Mataram while their leaders paid their respects at the graves of invaders like Babur and mafia dons. He said in BJP events, disrespect towards Vande Mataram would not be tolerated and asked other parties, including Congress and SP, to clearly state that any opposition to the national song would not be accepted within their ranks. TNN

We want Raj to host all big art shows: Dy CM

Diya Kumari Opens Jaipur Chapter Of Art Of India Festival

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A day after presenting the Rajasthan budget, deputy chief minister Diya Kumari shifted from the assembly floor to an art dias, inaugurating the Jaipur leg of **TOI**'s Art of India (AOI) festival on Thursday. Diya Kumari's presence as chief guest underscored the state govt's growing emphasis on culture as a pillar of Rajasthan's public life and tourism vision.

The exhibition at Rajasthan International Centre marks the first time AOI has travelled to the Pink City. The deputy CM emphasised the city's readiness to take centre stage on India's cultural map.

"Why not Jaipur? Why not Rajasthan? Rajasthan is very well connected, and we have everything here. Why should these events only go to other states? We want Rajasthan to host all the big art shows, cultural events and major exhibitions," said Diya, also known for her work as a philanthropist, entrepreneur, education-ist and art patron.

The deputy CM unveiled the exhibition catalogue alongside other dignitaries, including curator Alka Pande, Grammy-winning Mohan Veena maestro Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Michelin-starred chef, author and visual artist Suvir Saran, and Nitin Chengappa, MD of Standard Chartered Bank, presenting partner of AOI.

Now in its fifth year, AOI has evolved from its 2022 debut in Gandhinagar into a travelling, multi-city celebration of Indian art, with editions in Delhi, Jaipur and Mumbai. This year's edition explores the theme of landscape. The festival brings together over 100 artists and 300 artworks. Alongside modern masters such as MF Husain, SH Raza, Jamini Roy and KG Subramanyan, the Jaipur exhibition features contemporary artists. The deputy CM admitted she was "mesmerised" by the exhibition. "In every budget and announcement, we make a point to ask how we can support art more and bring more cultural events to Jaipur and Rajasthan. I'm sure Jaipur will now be known as a place people don't just come to get married or to travel, but also to witness these amazing events."

Rajasthan chief secretary V Srinivas echoed the sentiments. "Jaipur, as you are aware, and Rajasthan itself, is a civilisational giant. It brings together multiple art forms, dance traditions, as well as literary forms. It is an amalgam of many cultures. I'm very glad that this exhibition is being curated here," said Srinivas.

CREATIVE SPARK: (From left) Curator Alka Pande, author and visual artist Suvir Saran, Rajasthan deputy CM Diya Kumari, Mohan Veena maestro Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, and MD at Standard Chartered Bank, Nitin Chengappa, unveil TOI's Art of India exhibition catalogue in Jaipur Thursday

10-mth-old Kerala's youngest organ donor, saves 4 lives

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: A 10-month-old girl from Pathanamthitta has become Kerala's youngest organ donor, saving four lives after she was declared brain-dead following a road accident.

The infant was critically injured in a mishap at Pallam near Kottayam on MC Road on Feb 6. A vehicle approaching from the opposite direction collided with the car in which the child, her mother, and maternal grandparents were travelling. The baby was initially provided treatment at hospitals in Changanassery and Thiruvalla before being shifted to Amrita Hospital in Kochi for advanced care on Feb 6 night. Despite intensive medical efforts, she couldn't be saved. Doctors confirmed her brain death Friday afternoon. Even in their most difficult hours, the child's parents made a decision to offer hope to others. Choosing to look past their own loss, they consented to organ donation.

The donation process was coordinated through govt agency Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization. Her heart valve was arranged to be sent to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology; liver to KIMS Hospital — both in Thiruvananthapuram — and kidneys to Thiruvananthapuram medical college. Her eyes will be handed over to the eye bank.

Health minister Veena George thanked the infant's parents for their decision to save the lives of others despite their immense grief.

RW group forces Dalit woman to 'postpone' her interfaith wedding

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Bareilly: An interfaith couple's planned wedding in Meerut was "postponed" following threats and protests by members of a right-wing group. An FIR was also registered against the groom under the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act following allegations of "love jihad". **TOI** had reported about the FIR earlier this week.

The couple — Akanksha Gautam, who follows Buddhism and works in the private sector, and Shahvez Rana, a medical professional — was scheduled to marry on Friday. Both belong to Meerut city.

Following news of their wedding a few days ago, members of Hindu Suraksha Sangathan protested and, accompanied by Akanksha's uncle, Premchand Gautam, filed a complaint at the city's Ganga Nagar thana.

Speaking to **TOI** on Friday, Akanksha said, "My wedding is a non issue. This (right-wing) group wants to make it a national headline. I want to ask who are these men to take a decision on my behalf, and how can they thrust their decision on me? My life has turned into a complete chaos, but the man I chose to marry still stands by me. I gave my statement to the court, and I want to marry him. Our marriage has been postponed, not cancelled."

The 29-year-old added, "My father passed away in 2023, after which my uncle, who filed this complaint against Rana, wants to grab our property. We have a house and other properties in my mother's name, which he wants to be registered in his name.. When my mother and sister are happy for me, why is he creating a problem?"

The woman's mother, Lata Rani, meanwhile, said, "We're Buddhists and not Hindu. This is open bullying... Whatever we're doing is within the framework of the Indian Constitution. I fully stand by my daughter and Shahvez. They will get married, come what may."

In his complaint, Akanksha's uncle alleged deception. "Shahvez Rana deceived her with the intention of grabbing property. He conspired after manipulating and brainwashing her," he stated.

5 injured as truck crashes into wedding procession

Raipur: Five people, including four women, were injured, one of them critically, after a heavy loading vehicle allegedly lost control and ploughed down a group of 'baraatis' dancing near the wedding venue Wednesday in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district.

Angry guests reportedly assaulted the driver before police arrived and detained him. The driver claimed he had dozed off at the wheel, police said. TNN

18k displaced Manipur kids living in relief camps

▶Continued from page 1

Across Manipur, in camps set up inside colleges, govt halls and community buildings — from Ideal Girls' College in Akampat to classrooms in Kangpokpi and temporary shelters in Naliwa — other children responded to the same invitation with similar precision. Pages that once carried arithmetic and handwriting exercises now held houses burning, bodies lying still, figures running and smoke advancing across the horizon.

"These aren't reports," said Keishum Pradipkumar, chairperson of the Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights. "They are memories replaying themselves."

In one camp, a boy drew a house with its roof on fire. Halfway through, he paused, erased the door twice, then redrew it with a heavy bolt across it. He pressed so hard the paper tore slightly at the edge. When a counsellor asked why, he said the door needed to be stronger this time.

EVOCATIVE: A child's drawing shows gunmen, multiple houses burning and bodies lying still

Among the drawings Pradipkumar showed was one in which gunmen stood on a slope firing into smaller figures below. The villagers appeared mid-flight, their feet angled toward the lower margin of the page. At the bottom stood a house with a single padlock drawn so large it dwarfed the door. The child said he had made the lock oversized so no one could break in.

Another drawing showed a woman at the edge of a fire, her arms extended not in triumph or surrender, but in something harder to name. Around her lay smaller figures — some upright, some horizontal, one turned toward another as if shielding them. The flames were drawn evenly across the roofs. Red pooled where the bodies fell. The rest remained monochrome.

Pradipkumar described the images as "spatial memories" — impressions mapped onto terrain. The violence was rarely abstract. "Many of these kids saw what they were drawing. They are not inventing dramatic scenes," he said.

Official state figures list approximately 18,000 displaced children living in relief camps. Child rights advocates place the number closer to 25,000, including those living in rented accommodation, with relatives, or outside the state.

"We have to pay attention to both presence and omission," said a clinical psychologist working with displaced children in Imphal. "Children process experience visually before they can organise it into language. Early drawings often capture threat. Later drawings may reflect what the child longs for. Neither stage tells the whole story."

Child psychiatrist Dr Jina Hegingpam, who visited several relief camps to identify children experiencing PTSD, said counselling was essential to prevent longer-term mental health conditions.

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Goa consumer commission issues arrest warrant after Ola founder fails to appear

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: The South Goa consumer disputes redressal commission issued a bailable warrant against Ola Electric Technologies Pvt Ltd founder and CEO **Bhavish Aggarwal** for failing to remain present before the commission despite prior notice.

The commission directed Bengaluru police to arrest him and produce him before the commission in Margao on Feb 23 at 10.30am. He can be released on bail bond of Rs 1.5 lakh, said commission president Surjoo Chodankar in the order.

The commission, hearing a complaint by a 26-year-old, had earlier issued a notice to Aggarwal, directing him to personally remain present on Feb 4 for a clarification on the whereabouts of the complainant's bike and explain why it was not repaired and delivered to him even after a considerable period.

The complaint said he purchased an Ola S1 Pro Second Gen scooter on Aug 16, 2023, for Rs 1.5 lakh. Immediately after delivery of the scooter, its motor started making unwanted sound, he alleged. In addition, the touchscreen was not functional and needed rebooting every one hour.

The complainant said he communicated the errors and manufacturing defects to the company but there was no response. After repeated complaints at the store in Mormugao, he took the scooter to the company showroom.

According to the complainant, the company handed back the scooter claiming they had rectified the defects in the brand-new vehicle, estimated at Rs 18,432. However, the problem persisted, and in addition, another issue regarding bluetooth connectivity cropped up.

The scooter remains in the company's custody, he said. He moved the commission seeking a refund of the entire amount (Rs 1.5 lakh), along with Rs 50,000 as compensation for loss of value of money, harassment and agony suffered by him.

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The big fat gift of love

Promising a financially secure happily-ever-after, real estate is emerging as the ultimate present for couples who desire to build a secure and stable future

Isha.Khatu
@timesofindia.com

In a growing number of Indian households, the wedding gift box no longer contains just gold jewellery or crisp bundles of cash but something far more substantial: a set of house keys. As priorities shift among young couples and their families, gifting property is gaining ground as the new love language. After all, whether it's a small apartment, a suburban home, or even a plot, real estate can supersede ostentatious items and grand celebrations as the ultimate gift of love and togetherness. Rahul Kalyani, a senior vice president of partnerships at a financial services company, informs, "This shift is driven by a rising preference for practical wealth-building over symbolic gestures. With real estate offering price appreciation, families see it as a smarter investment."

BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

Many millennial and Gen Z couples are prioritising financial stability over grand displays of wealth. As a result, while not yet a widespread trend, blessing the pair with a new home instead of hosting a lavish celebration is gaining quiet traction as a meaningful alternative. Sakshi Mehta, a marketing executive, who received a 2-BHK flat from her parents, shares, "Foregoing extravagant events, they chose to secure our future. We couldn't be more grateful."

Kalyani also states that families are gifting compact flats in suburbs and upcoming townships, often with joint ownership or pre-approved home loans. "These usually include urban starter homes, which serve as a practical purchase offering immediate use and long-term value." Furthermore, Anjaleka Kriplani, the founder of a luxury interior home decor company, notes, "There's an uptick in individuals who want customised interiors for homes purchased as a wedding present."

SMART YET SENTIMENTAL

This shift reflects a more thoughtful approach to financial planning. Indian capital are famously expensive, with the high-end ones often costing Rs 20 to 30 lakhs or more. Redirecting this outlay towards the down payment of an appreciating asset anchors the couple's future.

"Steep wedding expenses don't generate any lasting returns. Hence, we're seeing some families opt for big-ticket investments like real estate, which serves as a capital allocation that often grows in value," remarks Kriplani. Kalyani adds, "A home creates a solid foundation for the future, allowing the pair to focus on long-term goals while offering tax benefits under home loan provisions."

WHAT ABOUT THE FINE PRINT?

While the sentiment behind this trend is generous, one must assess the legal and financial factors. Kalyani states, "Generally, property received as a present from immediate family members is exempt from tax. But it's always advisable to consult financial experts, structure ownership properly, optimise tax benefits and ensure compliance."

Here are some other essential considerations:

- **Think long-term:** Select properties with potential for price appreciation or rental income.
- **Consider financing:** Pre-approved loans and EMI-linked gifts can ease the monetary burden.
- **Prioritise usability:** Opt for ready-to-move homes or well-developed townships, especially if the couple plans to move in soon.

At its core, gifting a home signals a cultural shift that values stability over show. For couples, it's not just a roof, but a foundation to build life together.

- Inputs by Sahil Jain, a legal advisor

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Indo-US deal will expand cotton demand, benefit farmers: Goyal

'Reduction In Tariffs Has Made Indian Exports More Competitive'

Times News Network

New Delhi: The India-US trade arrangement will expand cotton demand rather than hurt domestic growers, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, while asserting Indian farmers stand to gain from rising textile exports.

"This will also not hurt our cotton producers... I can see before my eyes a huge requirement for more cotton and a huge and wonderful future for our cotton," Goyal said at the ET NOW Global Business Summit.

Explaining the mechanism, he said India will get the same concession that Bangladesh enjoys. "The same concession is available to India also. It's called a yarn forward. If you buy cotton or yarn from the US and process it and use it for making garments, you are able to export it to the US at zero duty. That's an established principle of theirs. And India will benefit from the same way of working," he said.

Goyal also said the reduction in US reciprocal tariffs from 50% to 18%, along with access at zero reciprocal for textiles in Europe, has made Indian exports significantly more competitive.

"We become extremely competitive. Let us convert this market access into market share," he said, projecting strong growth in sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, handlooms, handicrafts and marine products.

He said recent free trade agreements finalised by India have been structured to protect sensitive sectors, while expanding export opportunities. In the US deal, key agricultural products such as rice, wheat, corn and millets have been kept out to safeguard the interests of farmers. Similarly, India has not opened the dairy sector in any of its trade agreements, the minister said, noting that millions of small farmers depend on it for supplementary income.

Goyal also said India has concluded nine free trade agreements in the last three-and-a-half years with 37 developed economies, effectively opening up access to over 70% of global trade. These pacts, he said, are aimed at providing certainty and predictability for businesses, attracting investment, creating jobs and integrating India more deeply with global markets.

"There has never been a country that became developed while remaining insulated from the global economy," he said, adding that India's calibrated opening up is designed to balance consumer interests, farmer protection and export-led growth.

On the issue of imports, where India and the US are eyeing $500 billion of shipments over five years, Goyal said, India needs coking coal to boost its steel production and the US is a major supplier of this commodity. "...with the US, we are hopeful to get more aeroplanes into the country, which would be good for our tourism, which would be good for our mobility and hopefully bring down the airfares for all of us... It should open up remote area connectivity into the country," he said.

"Very easily I can see before my eyes, just the aviation sector, meeting probably a hundred billion dollars of imports — Boeing planes, aircraft engines and spare parts in the next five years." Goyal said India has used trade pacts to secure advantages such as investment commitments and better terms for Indian professionals abroad. FTAs, he said, are not just about tariffs but about "trust, transparency and time-bound certainty" that attract investment.

Vineet Jain, MD, The Times Group, with Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal at the summit

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Indian markets resilient in uncertain times: Sebi chief

Times News Network

New Delhi: India's capital markets have remained resilient and recorded strong and sustained growth against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions, trade uncertainties, tariff barriers, the pandemic and emerging challenges such as AI, Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman (Sebi) Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Friday.

"This shows the underlying strength of our market institutions and the growing confidence of investors. The nature of challenges may evolve but disruptions itself may remain constant. Therefore we need resilient markets capable of navigating geo- fragmentation, technological risks and other emerging risks, while continuing to support growth and innovation," said Pandey while speaking at an event in Delhi.

Stating that technology is reshaping markets faster than any rulebook can, the Sebi chairman detailed the measures that the stock market regulator is rolling out such as stronger cybersecurity frameworks and improved data governance. "Algorithmic trading, AI-driven decision-making are now part of everyday market functioning. We have set up a high-level working group to develop a short-term and long-term strategic, regulatory roadmap for the securities market ecosystem. AI offers powerful tools for surveillance and fraud detection. But it also brings risks, opacity and bias and concentration of technological power," said Pandey.

Pandey said Indian household is no longer a peripheral participant

"Regulation must therefore evolve from supervising institutions to supervising systems and technology. We must address concentration and interconnectedness risks. Strengthen data governance and consent architecture and manage the boundary between regulated finance and unregulated digital spaces." He said household savings are increasingly finding their way into capital markets as public participation in capital markets is expanding at an unprecedented pace, while highlighting recent developments undertaken by Sebi. "We now have 140 million unique investors... Mutual funds have become a major channel for household participation. This shows the Indian household is no longer a peripheral participant. It is central to the equity story of India. This means more responsibility for the regulator," Pandey added.

India will be the engine to drive world growth: PM

▸Continued from P 1

While the pandemic, conflicts and supply chain breakdowns marked this decade, it has also shown India's resilience in this period of crisis, PM Modi said. "I am proud that unprecedented development, great delivery and strengthening of democracy have marked this decade in India amid numerous disruptions," he said.

The PM said a decade back, there were apprehensions that India might slip from its position of 11th-largest economy, but growing rapidly, it is now on its way to become the third biggest. "It currently accounts for 16% of global growth and its share will only increase. It will drive the world's growth and be its engine," he said, adding he was not speaking as an astrologer.

Budgets, he said, reflect the changes ushered in by his govt. Earlier, Budget discussions would revolve around outlays, allocations and what products became expensive and cheaper, but now focus is on outlay as well as outcome. "Before 2014, off-Budget borrowing was prevalent. Now off-Budget reforms are prevalent," the PM said.

Citing reforms in a host of sectors, including GST changes, education and nuclear energy, labour laws, repeal of Article 370 and waqf laws, Modi stressed reforms are now pushed round the year and technology and innovation have become the core drivers of growth.

GLOBAL BRIDGE

Underlining wholesale reforms under his govt in policy, process, delivery and mindset as well, he said it would take years for building a road in border areas as permissions needed to be taken from Delhi, but the NDA dispensation has empowered local authorities to take measures as they deem fit for development.

India is riding the 'Reform Express' and will continue to gain speed, he said. "While earlier reforms, be it in 1991 when the economy was on the brink or during the UPA-era when NIA was formed after the 26/11 terror attack, were undertaken under compulsion, these are now powered by conviction."

UPA carried out reforms in the power sector only after grid failures and Food Security Act was introduced when inflation soared and hunger spread in tribal areas, yet even then it was poorly implemented, he said, emphasising that reforms born out of compulsion never yielded proper results for the nation.

He located his govt's push for reforms in the context of the new world order, which is taking shape after the weakening of post-World War II array, where each country would need to be resilient. "Digital India, e-payment system, and Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile trinity were not born out of compulsion, but conviction, driven by the vision of including citizens who were earlier left out," he said.

Lauding Modi's leadership, The Times Group MD Vineet Jain said India has transitioned from a land of aspirations to a nation of achievements. "In an era marked by unprecedented geopolitical turbulence, India has showcased its diplomatic acumen by concluding five transformative trade agreements within a single year... The PM has positioned India as a bridge-builder in a fractured world," he said.

The Times Group MD referred to increasing competition and monopolisation of tech businesses by global giants and said India should target building globally competitive businesses in tech and media sectors. "As social media and AI become primary consumption channels, India must establish a regulatory framework ensuring fair compensation for its media industry," he added.

India in 'box seat' in a fragmented world, says Martin Sorrell

Times News Network

New Delhi: India is in a "superb position" in a highly fragmented geopolitical world, as the fastest-growing economy with the scale, stability and technological ambition to help shape the next global order, **Martin Sorrell**, chairman of S4 Capital said on Friday.

"So, India is in the box seat for two reasons. In that fragmented world, picking growth is really important. India is growing. The second thing is because growth is going to be more tempered because inflation is tougher to deal with than people think (and we see that with central banks), and interest rates, as a result, are going to be higher than we've been used to..."

He said applying AI and blockchain becomes important. It is quite extraordinary that computing changes and capacity changes we are going to see not just from AI, but from implementation and quantum. India can play a huge role, he added. Responding to how India should be positioned, he said: "India is in a superb position. It has leadership, it has a strategy built around not only manufacturing but tech as well, and it has structure to get things done. India was the fastest-growing country last year. It will be the fastest-growing country this year. It will be the fastest-growing next year. PM Modi has done an excellent job of leadership and representing Brand India. The PM should be the chief brand officer."

Commenting on the growing instability reshaping advertising and media strategy, Sorrell said, "Volatility in economies is so huge that (long-term strategy) is under attack. AI is driving this... we're seeing a tremendous focus on short-term brand performance, on activation, and performance, and promotion." He said wholesale adoption of AI at scale has not been seen except in two verticals — autos and financial services as there's economic pressure from outside. "In financial services, fintech platforms are disrupting traditional services."

Need to focus on value addition in food processing: Chirag

Times News Network

New Delhi: India has the volume to support food security of many other countries, but the full potential of the food processing sector has not been tapped yet, food processing minister Chirag Paswan said on Friday, while emphasising the need to take this sector deeper into the rural India.

Paswan said that in the food processing industry, India has volume, but now there is a need to focus on value addition. He said there are key challenges, including making farmers financially strong, which can happen only when they have holding capacity to sell their produce when they get a good price. The minister said this can happen when the shelf life of farm produce is enhanced by value addition. He added that there is a need to set up more food processing units close to agriculture production hubs. He also highlighted the need to address wastage, particularly of perishable products.

He said several interventions, which govt has taken in the past decade, will help India to position itself as a global food basket. On India's growth story, Paswan said a decade of structural reforms under PM Modi have strengthened the country's economic resilience. Paswan said even amid global uncertainties, India remains the fastest-growing major economy. He added the country's next leap will be powered not merely by scale, but by value creation particularly in agriculture and allied sectors. "Our agriculture sector is shifting from subsistence to value creation," he said, underscoring the renewed focus on animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing.

On India-US deal, Paswan said the interests of farmers will never be compromised. The assurance came as the Opposition raised questions over the deal, calling it 'anti-farmer.' "India is one of the fastest-growing economies. That means we are doing something right. Our policies are often challenged, but we are allaying every fear."

Fadnavis: Maha in forefront to emerge as global growth platform

Delhi: Maharashtra CM **Devendra Fadnavis** said Friday that the future will belong to regions that combine intelligence with inclusion, as he asserted that his state is at the forefront of channelising disruptions of this century to remain not only India's largest economy but to emerge as a global growth platform as well.

If the country under PM is shaping the global change by moving from incremental reforms to structural transformation, Maharashtra as India's biggest state economy of $570 billion has entered this period from a position of strength, he said. "In this century of change, nations compete and states execute. In this emerging global order, sub-national economies will determine competitiveness."

Fadnavis said Maharashtra, with 14% of India's GDP, highest share of its FDI inflow, $87 billion in exports and nine million MSMEs driving employment and entrepreneurship, is in a strong position to be the leading destination for modern business activities. TNN

8.6k complaints received against sitting judges in last 10 years: Govt

Times News Network

New Delhi: Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed Parliament Friday that 8,630 complaints have been received by Chief Justice of India against sitting judges of the Supreme Court and high courts since 2016.

> **Independence of judiciary is enshrined in Constitution. Complaints received against judges and chief justices of HCs are handled through an in-house mechanism**
> ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL
> Union law minister

The frequency of the complaints has increased in recent times with 50% of all such grievances received in the last four years — between 2022 and 2025. According to information shared by the apex court with the law ministry, all 8,630 complaints against judges of the constitutional courts were received between 2016 and 2025.

As per the established "in-house procedure" of the Supreme Court to handle complaints against the higher judiciary, the CJI is competent to receive complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and chief justices of high courts. Similarly, chief justices of high courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of high court judges, the law minister said. The complaints received by govt is also forwarded to the CJI, or the chief justices concerned, for further action.

"Independence of judiciary is enshrined in the Constitution. The complaints received against judges and chief justices of the HCs are handled by the judiciary through an "in-house mechanism," the law minister said in a written response to a question in Lok Sabha.

The "in-house procedure" comes from two resolutions adopted by the SC in 1997, which provided for "the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life", laying down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the judges of the apex court and HCs.

"The in-house procedure also provides for taking suitable remedial measures against judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life, including those in the restatement of values of judicial life."

Govt also receives complaints through its centralised public grievance redress and monitoring system, an online platform where citizens can file grievances against any public authority related to service delivery. This portal is also linked to all ministries and departments of the central and state govts.

Season's first 'hot' warning for Konkan, coastal Karnataka as Feb turns warmer

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Pune: The IMD issued the season's first hot and humid weather warning for the west coast, with coastal Karnataka likely to experience such conditions on Friday (Feb 13) and Saturday, followed by Konkan and Goa on Saturday and Sunday.

IMD officials said temperatures along the west coast could climb to around 37°C in the coming days, leading to uncomfortable heat and humidity in coastal regions. The warning comes at a time when large parts of the country are witnessing a milder-than-usual Feb, with above-normal daytime temperatures across several regions.

The IMD's extended range outlook issued on Friday said average maximum temperatures were 2-4 degrees above normal across parts of north, northwest, northeast during the week, while the minimum temperatures were 3-5 degrees above normal over parts of west, north, northwest and adjoining central India.

An IMD official said northwest India is not witnessing any significant rise in temperatures at present, with maximum temperatures only slightly above normal. "Day temperatures slightly increased above normal in parts of northwest India earlier due to clear skies. The recent dip in night temperatures in Delhi and surrounding regions was linked to a western disturbance. Another western disturbance is likely to affect parts of north India around Feb 17-18 and may bring light rainfall to the plains. Night temperatures in north India tend to rise during western disturbances and only minor variations are expected in the coming days," he said.

In Maharashtra, several cities recorded warmer nights on Friday. Pune reported a minimum temperature of 14.4°C, about 2 degrees above normal, Nashik 14.7°C (2.3 degrees above normal) and Mumbai's Santacruz 19.5°C (approximately 2 degrees above normal).

IMD data showed minimum temperatures were above normal (1.6-3.1 degrees) at many places over western Himalayan region, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, west Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra and Kutch, Rajasthan, Marathwada, Madhya Maharashtra, Assam, and Meghalaya and near normal over other parts of the country during the last 24 hours till Friday morning.

HC holds 2nd marriage invalid, rejects plea for family pension

Chennai: A govt servant cannot lawfully enter into a second marriage while the first spouse is alive, Madras HC said, adding such a marriage remained invalid even after the death of the first spouse, reports **Sureshkumar K**.

Consequently, it rejected a man's plea to nominate his 'second wife' as the beneficiary for family pension.

A division bench also set aside a single judge's order allowing such a second wife of a govt servant to claim family pension benefits on grounds that the first wife was no more. "Tamil Nadu Govt Servants Conduct Rules prohibit contracting a second marriage by a govt employee during the lifetime of the first spouse. Contracting a second marriage during the lifetime of the first spouse is misconduct warranting departmental proceedings."

The govt servant, M Radhakrishnan, submitted an application for inclusion of names of both wives in pension payment order, which the accountant general rejected. Aggrieved, he moved the HC. A single judge allowed the petition and permitted nominating his second wife for family pension on grounds the first wife had died. However, the division bench said the single judge failed to consider the relevant rules under Tamil Nadu Pension Rules for grant of pension and family pension. Eligibility for pension and family pension is of paramount importance since pension is a welfare scheme and is granted in accordance with provisions of the rules. Allowing an appeal moved by the accountant general, the bench set aside the Nov 2021 single-judge order.

Married man in SC over dowry plaint by 'live-in partner'

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New Delhi: Can a married man in a live-in relationship be prosecuted for dowry harassment on the complaint of a woman with whom he was in an extra-marital affair, even though the law specifies that only a wife can make such a complaint against her husband and his relatives?

A Supreme Court bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh on Friday entertained an appeal by a doctor, Lokesh B H, challenging a Karnataka HC order rejecting his plea for quashing prosecution launched against him based on a complaint filed by his alleged live-in partner. The bench said, "The pertinent question that arises for consideration in this petition is whether a man, who is in a live-in relationship in the nature of marriage with a woman, can be prosecuted for having committed an offence under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or its corresponding section in the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita."

SC sought a response from govt on the issue and requested additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati to assist the court. It also appointed advocate Nina Nariman as amicus curiae.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Sanjay Nuli said the HC erred in interpreting that rigour of Section 498A applies even to a live-in relationship, even though the definition under the IPC section envisages action against the husband by the wife. Section 498A provides that "whoever being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall be liable to fine". Under it, cruelty includes dowry demands, and coercion and ill treatment.

In the current case, Lokesh — a cardiologist — was married to Naveena in Feb 2000. It was alleged by another woman, Teertha, that she got married to Lokesh in 2010. In 2015, Teertha lodged several complaints with police against Lokesh, his mother, sister and a cousin, but these were closed.

In 2016, Teertha lodged a complaint accusing Lokesh of attempting to burn her while demanding dowry, even though Lokesh's employer certified that on the day of the alleged incident, he was at his workplace — a hospital. She later lodged a domestic violence case against him. Lokesh filed a suit before a family court at Bengaluru seeking a declaration that there was no marital relationship between him and Teertha, which is still pending adjudication. In 2023, the police filed chargesheet against Lokesh for allegedly attempting to burn Teertha and demaning dowry. He challenged this before the HC which dismissed it.

HC: Mere breach of promise to marry does not constitute rape

Dehradun: Uttarakhand HC has ruled that consent to a sexual relationship by an adult woman does not automatically become invalid merely because the relationship later ends in refusal to marry. Quashing an FIR and all subsequent proceedings in a case alleging rape on the pretext of marriage, the court held that a failed relationship, by itself, does not constitute a criminal offence, reports **Pankul Sharma**.

A single bench of Justice Ashish Naithani was hearing a petition filed by a man seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him under IPC section 376 (rape) on the complaint of a Mussoorie resident. The court said that to invoke the offence of rape on the basis of a promise to marry, it must prima facie be shown that the promise was false from the outset and made solely to obtain consent. "A mere breach of promise, howsoever reprehensible morally, does not ipso facto [automatically] constitute rape in the absence of material indicating initial deception."

The complainant in the FIR said she was in a relationship with the man for several years and he maintained physical relations with her on the promise of marriage. HC said the FIR itself acknowledged frequent communication, mutual willingness to be together, and repeated consensual physical relations. It found that neither the FIR nor the chargesheet cited specific facts or conduct indicating the man had no intention to marry the woman from the outset. HC held that the long duration of the relationship and the admitted circumstances contradicted any presumption of fraudulent intent.

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Rahul motion off table after Nishikant's notice, says Rijiju

'Next Step After Decision On His Proposal'

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Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju (L) said Rahul Gandhi levelled a series of 'baseless allegations', including that the country has been 'sold', and raked up assertions made in an unpublished book in an illegal manner

New Delhi: Indicating the governing alliance's support behind BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's notice for a 'substantive motion' against Rahul Gandhi to expel him from Lok Sabha, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said on Friday that govt has dropped the idea to bring a proposal of its own against the leader of the opposition and will consult Speaker Om Birla on the next move once a decision on Dubey's motion is made.

"The motion govt wanted to bring has been dropped," he said, noting that Dubey has given a notice for his motion against Gandhi for his alleged bid to 'destabilise' the country and attack its institutions in league with "anti-India" forces. The BJP MP has also asked that Gandhi be barred from contesting elections.

Once the motion is accepted, the matter may be referred to the privilege committee or ethics committee, or may be directly taken up for discussion in Lok Sabha, Rijiju said.

Rijiju had earlier said govt will submit a notice for breach of privilege against Gandhi for levelling serious allegations against PM Narendra Modi on the floor of the House in violation of rules and without authenticating his charges.

He said Gandhi levelled a series of "baseless allegations", including that the country has been sold, and raked up assertions made in an unpublished book of former army chief Gen (retd) M M Naravane in an illegal manner.

Gandhi has struck a defiant tone, reiterating that he spoke the truth and accusing Modi of betraying the country's interests in the trade agreement with the US. He has also been targeting the PM for his handling of conflict with China.

Though his belligerent attack on the govt, of a piece with his hyper-aggressive campaign against BJP and Modi, has not paid much political dividend so far and has drawn fury from the governing alliance, the BJP-led NDA will be weighing its options against the issues political fallout.

While cases exist of MPs facing corruption charges being expelled from Parliament at different points of time under 'substantive motions', which cover a wide range of matters that require voting, the kind of allegations against Gandhi place the issue in a different category.

He was expelled from Lok Sabha in 2023 as well following conviction in a defamation case by a Gujarat court, but was reinstated after SC stayed the conviction.

Stormy first leg of Budget session ends

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Marked by deepening acrimony between govt and opposition parties, especially Congress, the first part of Parliament's Budget session ended on Friday, marking a low as PM Narendra Modi could not deliver his customary annual reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address due to apprehension of "unexpected" protest near his seat in Lok Sabha.

Witness to several duels between opposition and treasury benches over the India-US interim trade deal and unpublished memoir of former Army chief M M Naravane, the first part of the session also saw the opposition give a notice to remove Speaker Om Birla from his Chair after expressing no confidence in him and accusing him of abusing his position. Birla said he will not occupy the Chair on moral grounds until the notice for his removal is disposed of.

Both Houses will reassemble on March 9 and the session will conclude on April 2.

Restore expunged parts of speech, says Kharge; RS chair rejects call

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Leader of the opposition in RS, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday raised the issue of portions of his speech during the debate on motion of thanks to the President's address being expunged, and demanded that they be restored.

Raising the matter soon after Zero Hour, Kharge said the expunged portion did not contain anything "defamatory or unparliamentary" and urged the Chair to reconsider the decision. He said he would release the full speech to the public if his request was not accepted, prompting a sharp reaction from chairman C P Radhakrishnan. The chairman said the decision of the Chair cannot be questioned and said the expunged portions of the record cannot be released.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman quoted Rule 261 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and said if the Chairman is of the opinion that words have been used which are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified, he may in his discretion order such portions to be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

Kharge said he made several important points in his speech on Feb 4 which were missing from the version uploaded on Rajya Sabha website. "I made several important points, ranging from social justice to the parliamentary system. However, upon reviewing the verbatim text of the speech uploaded on the website, I found a large portion of my speech had been expunged or deleted without any proper justification," the Congress MP said.

He asserted he had made factual comments on parliamentary proceedings during the current govt's tenure and criticised certain policies of the PM in his capacity as LoP. Citing his five-decade-long parliamentary career, Kharge said he has always been conscious and attentive of the decorum of language, being aware of the dignity of the House, its rules and traditions, and the duties of the presiding officer.

"I request you to reconsider and reinstate the deleted portions," he said.

Army unveils rose named 'Op Sindoor'

Sujoy Khanra | TNN

Kharagpur: A new hybrid rose variety, named "Operation Sindoor", was unveiled in the flower market here by Army officials. The rose was cultivated at Pushpanjali Rose Garden at Jakpur in Kharagpur by Pranabir Maity who has earlier developed roses that were named at significant locations, including at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The particular rose variety has branches measuring 120-150 cm, is red and fragrant, and has 30-35 petals. It blooms year-round, has high disease resistance, and its saplings can be planted in soil or pots.

The hybrid rose variety, named 'Operation Sindoor', blooms year-round and has high disease resistance

Earlier, Maity had proposed a rose garden project next to a tulip garden in Jammu and Kashmir. Discussions with the Kashmir administration began last year during his visit. However, due to Operation Sindoor, the rose garden project was delayed. Despite multiple discussions with the CM's office, the garden's development was postponed. Meanwhile, Maity connected with the Indian Army, which proposed that he breed a special rose variety. On Friday, the rose was inaugurated by Army officials at a function presided over by Brigadier Sudhir Sodhi. Starting today, the new rose variety is available in the market.

Maity said he is delighted. "We created a new rose variety and posted it on social media, which led to the proposal to name it Operation Sindoor. The flower resembles sindoor (vermilion). Since the incident (terror attack) occurred in Pahalgam, we made contact with the Army, which gave the green signal and informed us to inaugurate it in their presence. Officials from the Eastern Zone came for the inauguration. I feel proud," he said.

DAC clears Rafale's SCALP, Russian S400 missile buys

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New Delhi: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given approval to the purchase of long-range SCALP missiles for Rafale jets and additional missiles for Russia-made S400 aerial shield system, a govt source told **TOI**. A day after the DAC's approval for purchase of 114 Rafale jets, defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Friday that this will be the first time French fighter jets will be manufactured outside France and their delivery to India will start from 2028 onwards, starting from naval variants and then IAF variants.

Indian Air Force's Rafale jets

While 250-km-range SCALP air-launched cruise missiles, which are designed for deep-penetration attacks, were used by Rafale jets to target terror headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan's Muridke and Bahawalpur districts during Operation Sindoor, missiles of the S400 system thwarted aerial attacks like cruise missiles from Pakistan last May. The SCALP missiles, which are equipped with a combination of inertial navigation, GPS, terrain-reference navigation and an infrared imaging seeker in the terminal phase, attacked Pakistan's terror and military bases with pinpoint accuracy.

The defence secretary told a news agency, "It will be a govt-to-govt deal for 114 Rafale jets, no intermediaries, full transparency in the project, and full authority to integrate Indian weapons and Indian systems into the aircraft."

In the earlier French deals for 36 Rafale jets and 26 marine Rafales, the French govt did not provide India with the critical source code for the aircraft's radar and weapon systems, limiting India's ability to independently integrate indigenous missiles like Astra. Without the source code, India is not able to perform "unilateral upgrades", necessitating reliance on French firms for future improvements. However, the defence secretary's clarification made it clear that for the 114 Rafale jets, India won't face any source code problem and will have complete authority to integrate indigenous missiles.

Though TOI's Thursday story mentioned about 'Dassault-HAL collaboration' for Rafale jets production, HAL has clarified that it has not received any communication from either defence ministry or Dassault for local production. Dassault has to take a call on its India partner.

In Paris, French engine maker Safran CEO Olivier Andries said on Friday the company is ready to build an engine assembly line in India to meet the country's requirements for local production as Indian and French govts are gearing up to discuss the purchase of 114 more Rafale jets during President Emmanuel Macron's visit. Safran, which makes M-88 engines for the Dassault Aviation jet, will also buy parts from local suppliers to support India's aerospace industry.

Cong dominates, BJP surprises and BRS loses grip

TELANGANA CIVIC POLLS

A candidate in Warangal celebrates his win with supporters, in Warangal on Friday

- Total wards: (municipalities & corporations) | 2,996
- Results declared | 2,980
- Congress | 1,537
- BRS | 781 | BJP | 335
- Independents: 181
- Other Registered Parties: 73

AIMIM 70 | CPM 13 | BSP 2

Roushan.Ali@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Two years since returning to govt, Congress tightened its grip on Telangana's urban landscape Friday by being on course to win at least 83 of 116 municipalities and five of seven municipal corporations that went to polls on Feb 11.

Congress sealed a majority in the Mancherial, Ramagundam and Nalgonda municipal corporations by evening and was close to wresting Mahbubnagar from BRS with 28 seats in the 60-member House. The party hopes to also win Kothagudem with the help of its ally CPI.

BJP sprung a surprise by emerging as the single largest party in the Karimnagar and Nizamabad municipal corporations, leaving BRS's cupboard bare. The municipal chairpersons and mayors will be elected on Feb 16. Of the 2,996 wards across 123 urban local bodies, Congress's tally of 1,534 marked a sharp spike from the 589 seats it won in the 2020 municipal elections. The party had also performed well in the Dec 2025 rural polls, winning the majority of panchayats.

Allies push to heed TMC demand to boost unity

Continued from page 1

The allies' sudden push to heed Trinamool's demand appears aimed at appeasing Mamata Banerjee and reinforcing opposition unity, while also maximising support for the removal notice against Birla when it comes up in March. A senior Congress leader said, "it will happen soon. We are discussing the issue".

With a firm majority in both houses of Parliament, the Modi govt and the BJP are unlikely to be bothered by the opposition moves. However, it would be an unprecedented sight that two top constitutional posts would face simultaneous no confidence from the opposition.

The Trinamool's demand against the CEC has a wide approval within the opposition camp, with virtually every regional party questioning the process of SIR of electoral rolls in the states. The opposition has dubbed the SIR as a BJP ploy to disenfranchise opposition voters to benefit the ruling party. While the issue has been debated at length in the SC, its reverberations have also been felt in Parliament.

Judicial officer not contesting his retirement, but 'unfit' tag

Continued from page 1

In the appeal, his counsel Mayuri Raghuvanshi told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that the judicial officer is not contesting his compulsory retirement but challenging the 'unfit' tag which, according to him, was stigmatic.

The bench said compulsory retirement is not a punitive action and assuaged the feeling of the judicial officer by saying that the remarks in the order compulsorily retiring him would not be an impediment to his entitlements to post-retirement benefits.

However, the CJI had some harsh words for those with doubtful integrity in the justice delivery system. "If there is a report about doubtful integrity of a judicial officer and the HC is of the view that he should not continue in service, how can the SC interfere in that decision?"

"Spoken reputation of a judicial officer is important to maintain public faith in the justice delivery system. Once a committee of judges casts a doubt on the integrity of a judicial officer and if a decision is taken to compulsorily retire him, then the benefit of doubt (about the correctness of the decision) should go to the institution and not the judicial officer," the CJI said.

In its judgment, HC had said the service record of the judicial officer from 2000 till 2015 shows that the case disposal was either 'just adequate', 'inadequate', 'adequate' or 'poor'.

2.1m Indians expected in Malaysia this year

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: With Indians being allowed visa-free until the end of the year, Malaysia is expecting a record 2.1 million tourists this year, a 35% increase compared to the tourist inflow from India recorded in 2025.

Speaking to TOI on the sidelines of the Tourism Malaysia Sales Mission event held here on Friday, Malaysia's Consul General for South India K Saravana Kumar, pointed out that tourists from India saw a rapid rise following the Covid years. "After Covid, India and Malaysia opened up much earlier compared to other countries. In 2023, there were only about 300,000 tourists, and in 2024 it increased to 1.1 million," the envoy added.

While India remains one of Malaysia's key source markets, South Indian states, including Karnataka, remain key contributors, operating 151 of the 242 direct flights between the countries every week. Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru alone sees 30 flights taking off weekly.

According to Hishamuddin Mustafa, director of Tourism Malaysia in Chennai, Bengaluru remains one of Malaysia's strongest markets in South India, with high outbound travel potential across leisure, luxury, MICE, weddings, and corporate segments. "Bengaluru is a very key market for us," said Ganesh Ramaa, vice president, Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA).

Lab analysis showed high levels of DEG

Continued from page 1

Children under treatment for routine symptoms like fever and cough were prescribed Coldrif syrup at a govt health facility in Chhindwara district. Within days, several of them developed acute kidney failure and other complications, and were referred to Nagpur for advanced care. As many as 26 children, mostly from Chhindwara and Betul districts, lost their lives, with the latest death reported earlier this month when Harsh Yaduvanshi, who had slipped into coma on Sept 26 last year, succumbing at AIIMS-Nagpur just days after he turned four.

An official associated with the investigation told **TOI** that laboratory analysis of the seized samples of batch SR-13 of the cough syrup that was supplied to Chhindwara had revealed shockingly high levels of DEG contamination. Now, a months-long toxicological examination conducted at state Forensic Science Laboratories has established a direct link between the contaminated batch and the deaths.

"This is the most important finding of the probe so far. The presence of DEG and its metabolites in the viscera of the kids whose postmortem examination was done, and whose viscera samples were sent for toxicological and forensic investigations, is crucial. There could be multiple reasons for kidney failure, but now the presence of the same dangerous chemical that was found in the samples taken from the factory as well as leftover bottles, and in the bodies of the children who died, leaves no room for doubt," the official said.

"We are now awaiting the opinions of subject experts. All this evidence and the opinions will be produced before the court in the supplementary chargesheet soon. We got this report a few days ago and took the opinion of experts on this report as well as the postmortem report. They concluded that DEG is the cause of deaths," the official added.

Police had traced contaminated batch SR-13 to Sresun Pharma's manufacturing unit, and investigations had found industrial-grade DEG was used in place of a pharmaceutical-grade solvent.

US judge Marrero to set sentencing hearing soon

Continued from page 1

Senior US district judge Victor Marrero is expected to schedule a formal sentencing hearing in the coming months.

Central to the indictment is Vikash Yadav, a former official in India's Research and Analysis Wing. US authorities allege Yadav recruited Gupta to coordinate the assassination. A federal arrest warrant for Yadav was issued in late 2024, but he remains in India. While New Delhi confirmed Yadav is no longer employed by the govt, it has not indicated willingness to extradite him. An internal Indian inquiry acknowledged the official had "criminal links" but insisted the episode was a "rogue" operation, denying state-sponsored intent.

Pannun serves as general counsel for Sikhs for Justice, an organisation advocating for an independent Khalistan. In recent months, he has been a provocative figure, organising Khalistan referendums in US cities and releasing videos calling for boycotts of Air India.

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
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दूरभाष / Phone:0471-2568603, ई-मेल E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in

संविदा के आधार पर स्थानिक सहायक होस्टल प्रबंधक के लिए 17.02.2026 को प्रवेश साक्षात्कार

WALK- IN-INTERVIEW FOR RESIDENT ASSISTANT HOSTEL MANAGER ON CONTRACT ON 17.02.2026

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) संविदा के आधार पर स्थानिक सहायक होस्टल प्रबंधक की रिक्ति भरने हेतु 17.02.2026(मंगलवार) को आईआईएसटी, वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम में प्रवेश साक्षात्कार का आयोजन करता है।

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) conducts Walk-in-Interview on 17.02.2026 (Tuesday) at IIST Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram for the contract position of Resident Assistant Hostel Manager.

शैक्षिक योग्यता, आयु सीमा, अनुभव, रिपोर्टिंग का समय, आदि से संबंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए तथा आवेदन पत्र डाउनलोड करने के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट https://www.iist.ac.in/administrative-positions देखें।

For more details such as Educational Qualification, Age Limit, Experience, Reporting Time etc., and for downloading application form, please visit our website https://www.iist.ac.in/administrative-positions.

विज्ञापन सं. / Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/07/06/2026 dated 14.02.2026

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BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND NO-16&17/TS/2025-26 Dated: 12.02.2026

KPPP Tender Notice
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 16 & 17/2025-26
DATED: 12.02.2026

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural, under TND No. 16 - ZP various head of accounts and TND No. 17 - Hon'ble Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme (CMIDP) Head of account. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: 21.02.2026 upto 5.30 pm. Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist, Bangalore.

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
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रजिस्ट्रार की आवश्यकता / REQUIREMENT OF REGISTRAR

केरल में तिरुवनंतपुरम में स्थित भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) भारत सरकार के अंतरिक्ष विभाग के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान और यूजीसी के तहत मानित विश्वविद्यालय है। यह संस्थान प्रशासन का नेतृत्व करने के लिए प्रतिनियुक्ति/आमेलन के आधार पर सातवें सीपीसी के स्तर 13 ए (वेतन मैट्रिक्स ₹ 131100 - ₹ 216600) में रजिस्ट्रार के पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala an autonomous institution under the Department of Space, Government of India, and Deemed-to-be University under UGC invites applications for the post of Registrar in Level 13A of the VII CPC (Pay Matrix Rs. 131100 - 216600/-) on deputation/absorption basis to lead the Administration.

आवेदन 14.02.2026 से 15.04.2026 तक ऑनलाइन माध्यम से प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। विस्तृत सूचना और ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए, कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट https://iist.ac.in/administrative-position देखें।

Application will be received through online from 14.02.2026 to 15.04.2026. For detailed notification and online application, please visit our website https://iist.ac.in/administrative-positions.

विज्ञापन सं. / Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/14 - 2026 (1) dated 14.02.2026

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Hubballi, the 4th February, 2026

S.O. 558(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Hubballi) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

SN	Name of the Project	Name of Village	Taluk	District
1	"Bangalore City-Jolarpettai-Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 112 at Km 272/100-200 between station Kamasamudram-Bisanattam."	Kamasamudram	Bangarpet	Kolar

[F No. SWR/W 352/ROBs-RSP/Land/2025-26]

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

NINGAPPA CHANDAPPA CHALUWADI,
Deputy Chief Engineer/Road Over Bridge, Road Safety Projects/ Hubballi

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SUCCESSFULLY CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Mother is God; Service is Dharma

A Magnificent Three-Decade Journey

Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd.

Founded on February 14, 1996, by Mr. Jagadish Kotian in fond memory of his mother Prema Kotian, the Janani organisation today completes 30 years of its journey. What began as a modest enterprise has grown into a leading organisation in Bengaluru, providing employee transportation services to some of the city's top corporate companies. The strong foundation of the organisation has been built on the support of advanced technology and a dedicated workforce committed to sincere service.

The company employs 275-300 people directly, while nearly 3,000 drivers are engaged in its operations.

As it enters its 30th year, the management is enthusiastic about embracing new challenges. The organisation has set its goals on delivering international-standard services, enhancing safety and travel comfort, and transforming the company from a person-centric model into a system-driven organisation. There is also a clear intention to expand services across the length and breadth of India.

Along with providing high-quality vehicles, the company has also put in place ambulance and patrol vehicle facilities to ensure immediate medical assistance in the event of accidents during transit. Through this arrangement, accident victims can be shifted to hospitals within 15 minutes.

While some organisations provide only cab services and others only buses, Janani offers vehicles ranging from 4-seaters to buses. In addition, customised vehicles designed to suit the needs of persons with disabilities and pregnant women are also provided - this is Janani's distinctive strength.

- Madhusudan
Vice President, Operations
Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd.

Transporting between 80,000 and 1 lakh employees every day for IT and manufacturing companies operating in Bengaluru is a responsibility of immense significance. From ensuring employee safety to fulfilling every requirement related to transport and traffic management, Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd. has emerged as a frontline organisation in this sector and is now celebrating its 30th anniversary.

By offering vehicles ranging from 4-seaters to 50-seaters, Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd. has earned a reputation for providing customised transportation solutions tailored to corporate requirements.

With thousands of IT and corporate organisations functioning from Bengaluru, providing round-the-clock transportation services to their vast workforce is a major challenge. Corporate companies entrust employee transportation agencies with the responsibility of safely and comfortably transporting employees from their residences to their workplaces at designated times. While several organisations offer such services in a metropolitan city like Bengaluru, Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd. stands among the most prominent.

Over the last three decades, the company has earned appreciation by delivering high-quality and exceptional transportation services to more than 500 leading Indian and multinational corporate companies. Services are rendered daily through nearly 3,500 vehicles. Transporting employees to and from multiple corporate offices is by no means a simple task.

Quality in Driver Selection

Quality is given top priority even while selecting drivers for service. Comprehensive background verification is carried out, and candidates with unsatisfactory records are not selected. Strict quality control is maintained even during onboarding. This approach has earned Janani the trust and confidence of corporate clients.

Management Team

Best Driver Awardees

Driver Training

Late Smt. Prema D. Poojary
(Mother of the Managing Director)

Customer Trust Is Our Strength

Whatever Janani has achieved over the last three decades has been possible only due to the committed workforce that has been building the organization with dedication from its inception. At Janani, every customer matters. We are committed to fulfilling the needs of corporate organisations and strive to exceed expectations in providing superior employee transportation services. The speed, service quality and professionalism that our customers frequently mention while speaking about us motivates us to deliver services aligned to their evolving needs.

- Jagadish Kotian
Chairman & Managing Director
Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd.

Support for Underprivileged Students Prema Charitable Trust

Janani is at the forefront of social initiatives, dedicating a portion of its profits to education, healthcare, marriage assistance for economically weaker families, housing support and community welfare.

Over 400 meritorious underprivileged students are supported through full sponsorship of higher education, including medical and engineering studies. Many of them are today employed as doctors and engineers in leading institutions.

The Managing Director, Jagadish Kotian, founded the Prema Charitable Trust in his mother's name, extending financial assistance for healthcare expenses and marriage support to economically distressed families, thereby offering support in times of need.

The Birth of Janani

Driven by the dream of turning vision into reality, Mr. Jagadish Kotian, a native of Mangaluru with far-sighted leadership qualities, chose Bengaluru as his professional base. On February 14, 1996, coinciding with his mother Prema Kotian's birthday, he launched his venture 'Janani Travels' at Peenya, Bengaluru. The company initially began providing vehicles on an outsourcing basis to industries and companies in and around Peenya.

The services extended to IT giant Wipro later expanded to other BPO companies. In the year 2000, Mr. Kotian rebranded the transport business as Janani Tours and Resorts Pvt. Ltd., transforming his dream venture into a private limited company. With the objective of offering complete employee transportation solutions under one roof, Mr. Kotian, along with his team, worked tirelessly. As a result, the Janani brand became widely popular among leading Indian and multinational corporate companies in Bengaluru.

Through quality and prompt service, partnerships, and transparent business practices, the company earned the satisfaction of both employees and clients, securing a distinct position in the transportation industry. Today, Janani operates not only in Bengaluru but also in Mangaluru. Through its associate concern, Janani Homes, the company has launched serviced apartment facilities, in addition to employee transport. Janani provides vehicle services of various categories - from common users to VIPs - for airports, railway stations and hotels.

To ensure quality and safety in transportation for global IT companies, modern technologies were adopted early. In 2007, a technologically advanced Command Centre with 24x7 monitoring was established. Janani introduced call-masking features to ensure employee privacy and deployed patrol vehicles to ensure rapid response and safety. Mobile applications were developed for supervisors, drivers and employees, says Mr. Jagadish Kotian, Chairman and Managing Director. He adds that the team works round the clock relentlessly services to customers. Employees are also given specialised training to stay updated with market developments and to function in a customer-friendly manner.

Janani - A Family for Thousands

Janani is not merely a transport system; it is a family concept. With the belief that those who work with the organisation should grow along with it, Managing Director Mr. Jagadish Kotian introduced the driver-owner concept in 1998 for the first time in India, enabling drivers to become vehicle owners through contract options. As a result, thousands of drivers are today leading better lives along with their families. By supporting the healthcare, children's education and basic needs of every employee and their families, Kotian has enabled Janani to grow into a successful enterprise rooted in the family concept.

Janani Homes

Keeping in mind people migrating to Bengaluru and Mangaluru for employment, the Janani Group launched the Janani Homes concept. Luxury suites have been developed at HSR Layout, offering attractive accommodation and quality services at reasonable rates. Serviced apartment facilities required by Bengaluru's corporate world are also provided. In Mangaluru, Janani Homes operates from Prema Layout near Kottara Chowki.

Driver Health Check-up

H.O. : #L-170,171, 'Janani', 6th Sector , Ring Road
HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102 | Ph : +9108040708090 (100 Lines)
www.jananitours.com

No. 4-147/30 , 'Janani' Prema Layout
Kottara Chowki, Mangaluru-575006 | Ph : 0824-2458413, 2458414
www.jananihomes.com

A thought for today

We all think we are connected to the world now, but we are not talking to our neighbours any more

JEAN-MICHEL JARRE

Test For Tarique

Will he partner with Delhi in Dhaka's interest?

This is the verdict New Delhi had quietly hoped for. A decisive mandate for BNP offers India the comfort of dealing with a familiar political formation. But familiarity is not reassurance – and that is where the comfort ends. The immediate question is whether Tarique Rahman, the presumptive prime minister, will recast BNP's approach or revert to the tenor of 2001-2006, when India-Bangladesh ties sank to one of their lowest points. Here, the Jamaat factor adds uncertainty. A future alignment between the two parties cannot be ruled out; their grassroots networks, including student wings, have long worked in tandem. Such a partnership would severely complicate New Delhi's calculations.

India's interests in Bangladesh are clear and interlinked: transit, stability in the Northeast and security cooperation. Sheikh Hasina delivered on all three – granting transit access to the Northeast, acting against insurgent groups on Bangladeshi soil, and limiting Pak ISI's strategic space. If Tarique proves similarly attentive to these sensitivities, there is no structural reason bilateral relations cannot remain constructive. Economics offers another anchor. BNP has traditionally drawn support from business constituencies. Yet bilateral trade has suffered over the past 18 months amid political friction – a lose-lose outcome. Bangladesh needs India for connectivity and regional market access; India needs Bangladesh to advance its Act East policy. Geography, if not history, argues for pragmatism.

No doubt the Hasina factor will linger, but governing in reaction to the past would be shortsighted. Playing the China or Pakistan card may offer tactical leverage for Dhaka, but it would be strategically risky. India and Bangladesh share borders, rivers and intertwined destinies. If this is a post-Hasina Bangladesh, it is also a moment for India to recalibrate. What the moment demands is not nostalgia from India or score-settling by Bangladesh, but a pragmatic reset grounded in shared interests.

How To Love Cricket

Not by only cheering for national team victories

$250 million – that's one estimate of the revenue the India-Pakistan match will generate tomorrow. It's an eye-catching figure, but a deeply misleading measure of cricket's global health. Of the 20 teams in this men's T20 World Cup, several may not face a "full member" again until the next ICC event. Outside the elite circle, meaningful exposure remains scarce. Even in the West Indies – two-time T20 champions – the sport appears in worrying decline. While Fifa invests aggressively in developing football worldwide, ICC's revenue distribution remains heavily skewed toward the Big Three. Cricket's return to Olympics – 2028 Los Angeles Games – should have happened earlier. One reason it didn't: ICC's reluctance to disrupt its own marquee calendar.

In short, the hard work required to help cricket thrive beyond its traditional geographies remains unfinished. But the mirror must turn inward too. Indian fans are passionate, even dominant in global arenas. Yet English county cricket still draws loyal crowds for domestic matches – something Ranji or Duleep Trophy can rarely claim. Indifference to first-class cricket at home suggests a narrow ring of affection. Loving only your national team's victories is not quite the same as loving the game itself. Part of the shift lies in marketing. In India, cricket is increasingly sold through the prism of high-voltage nationalism. That may boost ratings and revenue. But it diminishes sport – and shrinks the imagination of its audience.

What We Lose When We Give Up Reading...

...The very foundations of modern society

There's a 15-year-old YouTube video, showing a toddler scrolling and clicking on an iPad. She tries those moves on magazines, and gives up, perhaps concluding that a magazine is a broken iPad. Which sums up our relationship with print these days. In US, a 2024 study shows daily screen time has risen to 7.5 hours, while time with books and papers has reduced to 25 minutes. Static print doesn't stimulate us like the internet. It's boring, and so... primitive?

Anything but, if you ask *Joel Halldorf*, professor at University College Stockholm, whose book *Reading Matters* is a delightful history of reading and books, and a warning about the dangers of giving them up. Chapter after chapter, Halldorf shows how the humble book is an extremely sophisticated invention. First off, it took us 66,000 years to get from language to writing. Yes, writing – therefore reading – is only about 5,000 years old. It's not one of our "natural" gifts. We learn to read and write with a lot of practice, and become rusty when we stop.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Couple of thousand years ago, writing and reading were both extremely rare. Writing, because things like parchment and papyrus were super expensive. The length of scroll needed for a Bible cost as much as 300kg of wheat, Halldorf says. And you had to pay for a scribe besides. But then you needed a specialist reader too, because all text was written without space and punctuation. Why? Because that's the way we speak. The problem with this mode of writing was that you had to read it aloud, to concentrate. Once spaces and punctuation were *invented*, silent reading became possible, giving rise to erotic and radical political writing.

Early Christians had experimented with the 'codice', a kind of book made by cutting scrolls into pages so that both sides could be written on. It was cheaper and portable, and became their identity when pagan Romans and Jews stuck to scrolls. But it wasn't until paper reached Europe that writing became more common. As various books spread, universities came up, and with them disputations scholars. While monks read books cover to cover, slowly, with devotion, these scholars 'skimmed' books for information to forge arguments. So, they *invented* chapters, tables of contents and indexes. Next, the printing press standardised size, script and layout, and also page numbers. It also standardised vernacular languages. For example, "Farmers across Britain heard Scripture read in the same dialect" after the first English Bible was approved in 1539.

So the book was *invented* by degrees over thousands of years. And when the press democratised it, it started changing society. Martin Luther's printed pamphlets brought about the Reformation. Ideas of freedom, abolition of slavery, etc. spread through books. Reading also changed thinking. As Halldorf says, an oral society doesn't form complex ideas. But writing enables a literal society to reason deeply with clauses and subclauses. And so, by the 1800s, the West became very bookish. People always had their noses in books. That spell started breaking in the 20th century with cinema, radio and TV, and now our phones have almost brought us full circle. Halldorf warns we're becoming more oral again, therefore losing the ability for deep reasoning. Need proof? You have WhatsApp university, and social media thuggery and fakes.

'Shared History? That's History'

A Bangladeshi analyst argues BNP's victory marks a fundamental shift in the country's view of itself. GOI should be prepared for transactional relationship. But Dhaka should also recognise New Delhi's concerns about extremism

Shahab Enam Khan

Columnist based in Dhaka

Bangladesh has voted, a historic election with Tarique Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) winning two-thirds majority. What does it mean for Dhaka-Delhi relations is what everyone's really waiting for. And it's more than evident that a Bollywood-style "grand family reunion", like in *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Ghum*, is not the script that will play out. Post-July 2024 Bangladesh, the first election after the students' uprising, comes with new transactional relations.

Transactionality dictates global rules of engagement, not ideology or nostalgic promises. And Bangladesh has emerged from the July Uprising not seeking a patron, but having found its voice – loud, assertive, and uninterested in being anyone's junior partner.

The new govt inherits a parliament birthed by a youth demographic, a people's uprising and a new apolitical military. Today's parliament is a people's govt – not a political party sitting in another country's guest room. The far-right's surprise electoral showing confirms that Bangladesh's old duopoly has cracked, and whoever governs must reckon with a citizenry that has options.

Days of diplomatic cheering over shared history are over. It's history. But what we have instead is a tragicomedy of neighbourly errors – two countries chained together by geography, each trying to storm off in the opposite direction while the chain pulls shorter. Populists on either side have perfected the inflammatory soundbite, each channelling domestic propaganda – utterly convinced of their 'righteousness'.

India-Bangladesh Petrapole Border

It is not Dhaka's sole responsibility to fix the tentative relationship between the two neighbours. Several of Delhi's politicians have spent 18 months turning Bangladesh into a punching bag for domestic consumption. That was noted and deeply felt. Those scars will not heal any time soon.

That said, Yunus govt did itself no favours – its inability to address India's perceived security concerns gave Delhi plenty ammunition. Diplomatic incompetence is not a defence strategy; it's an invitation to be outmanoeuvred. But here's the irony. Those very anti-Bangladesh, anti-Yunus, and pro-Awami League campaigns achieved what no Bangladeshi politician managed in 50 years. It united the entire nation.

What annoys Dhaka is this: conjuring spectres of Bangladeshi "illegal migrants". But labelling a sovereign neighbour's citizens as security threats carries a cost *New Delhi* seems unaware of.

Here is the calculus that should worry – every inch of diplomatic space such an approach vacates will be easily filled by Islamabad or Beijing. Redlines in domestic politics must be drawn before foreign policy demands are made on others.

The trade reality is equally sobering. Despite Asami League era's achievements – the land boundary agreement, maritime demarcation through an international tribunal, transit deals – bilateral trade remained stubbornly lopsided and non-tariff barriers persisted. Geography made us neighbours; economics and mutual respect must make us partners. That's how partnerships work, that's the mantra.

Delhi's concerns about extremism are legitimate, and BNP will have to take them seriously – because extremism is Dhaka's nightmare too. But in pursuit of national security, persecution of minorities does not go unnoticed across borders. It only bolsters radical narratives on both sides. It is for Dhaka and New Delhi to recognise this.

BNP will tread carefully with New Delhi, as it must. Former PM Sheikh Hasina's trial remains a political reality that will serve as a convenient bargaining chip for whoever needs it. Jamaat-e-Islami, with newfound public sympathy, will pursue its own cautious regional policies with bold anti-Hasina politics. At the same time, BNP must juggle water-sharing disputes, trade imbalances, and a public watching every handshake for signs of capitulation – while acknowledging Delhi's genuine security concerns regarding its Northeast.

BNP holds more cards than any Bangladeshi govt has in years. Beijing remains the economic guarantor regardless of govt. Washington, Ankara and Islamabad will offer defence diversification solutions – a genuine necessity given erosion of multilateral security guarantees.

And Myanmar, where a non-state armed group sits across the border alongside 1.2mn Rohingya refugees, will dictate defence priorities in unprecedented ways. It would be wise not to view Bangladesh as any country's national security concern, nor as submissive to another state's wishlist.

That means, Dhaka's foreign policy under BNP will calculate relations on the basis of cold realities and dents inflicted. Nevertheless, the election marks a turning point for Bangladesh, an opportunity to be cautiously optimistic that politicians on both sides will eventually stumble upon pragmatism.

BNP will show commitment to improving relations, but this will only come with reciprocity, not goodwill monologues delivered over biryani at diplomatic receptions. Otherwise, as heard in *Sholay*, it'll be *itna sannata kyun hai bhai*? Perhaps because both nations are finally waiting for someone to say something sensible. The bar, at this moment, is not high.

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If You Are Feeling Lonely On Valentine's Day...

Promising experiments in the future of love are underway. Try festival dating. Or an AI companion, even if you are already in a relationship. And being your own Valentine is great too

Sandeep Das

Today is Valentine's Day, so every interaction, online and offline, seems to be about romance and love. As much as this is emotion, this is also big business. The Indian dating apps market is expected to reach $1.4bn by 2030, growing at 11% over the next few years, MarkNtel Advisors estimate. This is one of the fastest growing global markets, with over 100mn users registered across various platforms. Valentine's Day gifting is also a big market, growing at 20% every year, and estimated at ₹25,000cr for the entire week.

But does this booming business mean that everything is hunky-dory when it comes to love? NO. Modern dating offers unprecedented choice, but often at the cost of emotional depth.

And Valentine's Day loneliness is a real problem. It is more pronounced in people who are single. They worry that something may be wrong with them. Plus, there is severe societal pressure to be with someone during this time of the year.

In a survey by dating app Bumble, 32% of Indian respondents felt under pressure to find a date exclusively for this period. Another dating app, happn, found 29% of Indian singles feeling lonely during this part of the year.

This is not a problem exclusive to Valentine's Day. But it is closely associated with online dating apps. Because this ecosystem is marred by excessive choice, lack of proper connection, innumerable scams, and fear of missing out on the perfect partner.

A Forbes Health survey finds 79% of Gen Z reporting dating app fatigue. A 2024 YouGov survey in India reveals that 2 out of 3 dating app users had never met a match in person, while many had experienced fake profiles and mismatched intentions. In McAfee India research, 84% of respondents said online dating scams including deepfake audio and video have impacted their ability to trust potential matches. Moreover, 41% of respondents had ghosted someone, 38% had been catfished, and 37% had been love bombed.

There are, however, also early trends on how the future will be better:

- Moving away from dating apps towards in-person real experiences, is the solution. So, where will the future of love be found? At physical events – festivals, concerts, singles mixers etc. Physical events have the benefit of higher trust, limited choice, and a genuine human connection.

The Bumble survey finds 61% of Indian respondents are open to 'festival dating'. Similarly, a Tinder survey reveals that 43% of Gen Zs in India wanted their first date choice to be at festivals (such as Navratri and Durga Puja) and cultural events. Don't forget 'bhajan clubbing', which is becoming a rage with Gen Z and some millennials.

- At the opposite end of the spectrum, the idea of AI as a romantic partner is gaining traction, sort of irrespective of whether you are single or in a relationship. The option of an AI avatar that is customised to your preferences and provides 24x7 emotional support, is attractive. Across the world, there are over 40mn users of AI companion apps (such as Replika). Many of these users are forming emotional or romantic bonds with the AI companions.

Indians are also warming up to this trend. A McAfee India survey finds that 61% of respondents are open to developing romantic feelings for an AI chatbot. Even more extraordinarily, a huge majority indicates that 54% of Indian singles wouldn't mind their crush forming an emotional bond with AI. This is just a hint of the ways in which digital companionship is becoming normalised.

- Renting a boyfriend or a girlfriend is also becoming an option. After all, social media sets Gen Z unrealistic standards for their partners. Reels where young women say "my boyfriend should earn 100cr" get millions of likes. As do those where male coaches advocate, "be toxic to a woman and she will run after you." What does such thinking drive you to? To the Japanese model of renting a partner.

In India, 'Rent a girlfriend' models may not work due to safety concerns. But 'Rent a boyfriend' models are being tried in Mumbai and Bangalore. The trend will catch if the trust issue can be cracked.

- There is a desire for long-term relationships among Gen Z, to replace casual dating, situation-ships, multiple partners, nano-ships. The Bumble survey says 58% of Gen Z in India are looking for steady long-term relationships. However, the competition arises with what is termed 'readiness paradox'. While people may be looking for long-term love, what is holding them back is their fear of falling for the wrong person.

- Finally, cheers to being your own Valentine. The celebration of self-love is also a huge, positive movement towards the future of love.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacredspace

Love looks not with eyes, but with mind; And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind. Nor hath love's mind of any judgment taste: Wings and no eyes figure unheedy haste. And therefore is love said to be a child, Because in choice he is so oft beguil'd.

William Shakespeare

I ❤ TOI: We Love Living On Cloud Nine

Sonal Srivastava

A playback song from *Chak De! India* goes: "Baadal par paanv hain, ya chhoota gaon hai, ab toh bhai chal padi, apni yeh naav hai – our feet rest on clouds, or perhaps it's a village left behind; our little boat has finally set sail." The song creates imagery of freedom, of soaring high, of breaking boundaries, of leaving behind trauma and weight of the world. No wonder, then, that surrealist painter Dali uses anatomy of two lovers with their heads in clouds against a stark landscape to depict dreams and fantasies, and two separate worlds colliding and overlapping. The lovers meet, yet they are cocooned in their individualisms.

Besides artists, many brands use imagery of clouds and air to connect with this inherent desire to feel free, weightless and at ease. Brands such as Nike Air, On Cloud shoes, iPad Air, Airbnb use words such as 'air' and 'cloud' to imply a sense of lightness. Beyond brands, internet is depicted with a cloud icon to mask the complexity of telecommunication systems, which, for a layperson, can feel like rocket science.

To explain why we link complex ideas with relatable metaphors, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson proposed a Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) in *Metaphors We Live By*, which posits that we prefer to think of abstract concepts in terms of physical experiences, such as height, weight, movement, and balance. Hence, up is good, and down is associated with negative/bad sentiment – rising success/falling into depression. In this contextual framework, skies, clouds, and horizons suggest expansiveness, availability and, more importantly, a need for transcendence, to experience bliss.

TOI caters to this need; its pages provide an overview of what's going on in the world along with methodology of transcendence. One of the oldest newspapers in the country does both – neatly organises news and promotes the idea of neutrality, allowing a reader to step back and calibrate her response as she navigates information related to wars, economic uncertainty, human/nature crises, speciesism and environmental deprivation.

The reader must know that wisdom lies in understanding that our world is ephemeral, and both good and bad things that may give us joy momentarily or plunge us into depths of despair – do not last. They pass, just like thunderclouds part to make way for sunshine, for every dark cloud has a silver lining.

The life that we live and seeds of our future lie in this very moment, pregnant with potential of us being on cloud nine.

Advait Vedanta says that observer and observed are not different. The reader and the read do not have separate existence. We exist in Brahmn, the effulgent Self that creates this world and everything else. Brahman is the underlying substratum of all that exists, yet it is not dependent on it. For is it not that worshipper and worshipped unite in the grand scheme of things? Just like lovers who meet and become one – Mira and Krishn, Anda and Vishnu, Tukaram and Vithoba, Jayadev and Radha Shyam.

Kena Upanishad begs the question: "By whom missioned falls the mind shot to its mark? By whom yoked moves the first life-breath forward on its paths? By whom impelled is this word that men speak? What God serves and ear to their workings?" The Upanishad defines, "That which is hearing of our hearing, mind of our mind, speech of our speech, that too is life of our life-breath and sight of our sight. The wise are released beyond and they pass from this world and become immortal."

In Kalidas's Meghadutta, Cloud Messenger, yaksha releases the cloud after using it as his messenger to his beloved. "Now roam wherever you please in your glory, and may you not suffer even a moment apart from the light of your life."

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

EVERYTHING THAT IS DONE IN THIS WORLD IS DONE BY HOPE
— MARTIN LUTHER

KEANU REEVES TO LEND HIS VOICE AND LIKENESS TO A JOHN WICK ACTION VIDEO GAME, RELEASE DATE NOT OUT

TAYLOR SWIFT ASKS US GOVT TO BLOCK BEDDING CO'S 'SWIFT HOME' TRADEMARK: 'IT MAY APPEAR AS MY ENDORSEMENT'

After Hasina, Delhi gears up for new regime in Dhaka; Modi dials Rahman

PM Congratulates BNP Chief For 'Decisive Victory', Reaffirms 'India's Commitment To Prosperity Of B'desh'

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A supporter carrying a painting of BNP chief Tarique Rahman and his family outside the party office in Dhaka on Friday where muted celebrations were on

PM Narendra Modi was among the first global leaders to congratulate BNP chief Tarique Rahman for leading his party to a "decisive victory" in the Bangladesh parliamentary elections, building upon his earlier outreach to both Rahman and his recently deceased mother and former PM Khaleda Zia.

Effectively endorsing the poll process, for which India had refused to send observers, Modi said on X that the victory reflected the trust the Bangladeshi people had in Rahman's leadership. The PM also committed to working with him to strengthen bilateral relations and to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

With Sheikh Hasina's Awami League proscribed, a clear majority for BNP was always going to be the optimal result for India under the circumstances. However, an ascendant Jamaat-e-Islami that won 68 seats is likely to trigger fresh security concerns in India. The Islamist party's tally in the past had not exceeded 18 seats.

Later in the day, and still before the results were officially declared, Modi also spoke to Rahman about the latter's "remarkable" victory and backed his endeavour to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. "As two close neighbours with deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, I reaffirmed India's continued commitment to the peace, progress, and prosperity of both our peoples," said Modi.

In his earlier post in the morning, Modi said India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. "I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common development goals," added the PM, possibly the second leader in the region to reach out to Rahman on X after Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari.

The US was the first country to congratulate Rahman but at the ambassadorial level.

Ahead of the elections, India had conveyed to BNP leaders that India was interested in peace, stability, inclusion and democracy in Bangladesh, and would continue to engage with all stakeholders for the same, even as it continued to host Hasina. Modi had himself later doubled down on this outreach as he offered support for the treatment of Rahman's ailing mother and, after Zia's demise, sent foreign minister S Jaishankar to attend her funeral. Modi also wrote to Rahman acknowledging the three-time PM's contributions to the development of Bangladesh and strengthening of Bangladesh's ties with India.

Rahman is learnt to have responded positively to these gestures as he maintained that Bangladesh will work towards a more "balanced" relationship with India. However, in doing so, Rahman is unlikely, as evident from the BNP manifesto, to go slow on issues like border killings and sharing of transboundary river waters, or even the pending demand for Hasina's extradition. As Bangladesh opens its doors again to Pakistan, Rahman is also likely to seek an early revival of the Saarc summit process.

Equally for India, issues like the Northeast's security, increasing radicalisation and threat to minority communities, particularly Hindus, will remain non-negotiable with any Bangladesh govt. India will also expect Dhaka to be mindful of its security concerns, while recalibrating Bangladesh's ties with countries like Pakistan and China, both of which have been courting India's eastern neighbour since the departure of Hasina. The former PM and Indian ally expanded Bangladesh's economic ties with Beijing but not at the cost of India's strategic interests.

India will also closely follow the likely democratic reforms in the wake of the July Charter referendum that accompanied the general election and was passed with over 60% of votes. The reforms include introduction of an upper house in Parliament, two-term limit for PM and also emphasis on Bangladeshi, not Bengali, identity.

Tarique Rahman emerges as new face of Bangladesh

FROM EXILE TO POWER

Less than two months after returning from 17 years of self-imposed exile in London, BNP chief Tarique Rahman has emerged as the new face of Bangladesh.

Thursday's election marked a remarkable reversal of fortune for 60-year-old, who left the country in 2008 saying he needed medical treatment after his release from detention under a military-backed caretaker regime. He had been held after a crackdown on corruption. He returned home to a hero's welcome last Christmas after Sheikh Hasina's ouster in Aug 2024. Rahman's mother, Khaleda Zia, long dominated Bangladeshi politics, while Rahman's father, Ziaur Rahman was a leading Bangladesh independence figure who ruled the country from 1977 to 1981 before he was assassinated.

Events have unfolded so quickly since Rahman's return with his cardiologist wife and barrister daughter that he said he scarcely had time to reflect. "I don't know how we have passed every minute since we landed," Rahman said on the sidelines of an interview last week.

Five days after his return to Bangladesh, Rahman was struck by a personal tragedy as Khaleda Zia died after a prolonged illness. Rahman became the chairman of the BNP at a time when the party was facing a state of political wilderness ahead of the polls. A soft-spoken Rahman drew massive crowds as he spearheaded the campaign for his party. In speeches he has pledged to dismantle "the very monarchical" executive power on which his family once thrived.

The bespectacled Rahman was born on Nov 20, 1965, in Dhaka. He studied international relations at the University of Dhaka, dropped out, and later started businesses in textiles and agro-products.

Though his years abroad were marked by legal battles against money-laundering charges, he continued guiding the party from afar. In the UK, he lived a low-key life with his wife and daughter. From a home office that became the nerve centre of his party, Rahman ran the BNP via Zoom.

Since his return, he has tried to project himself as a statesman ready to look beyond his family's difficulties under Hasina. Gone is the image of a brash operator from the BNP's 2001-2006 era, when his mother was PM. Although he never held a govt post, Rahman was often accused of running a parallel power centre during her tenure, a change he denies. "What does revenge bring to someone? People have to flee from this country because of revenge. This does not bring anything good," he said. "What we need at the moment in the country is peace and stability."

Under Hasina's rule, Rahman became a central target of graft cases and was convicted in absentia in several of them. In 2018, he was also sentenced to life over a 2004 grenade attack on a rally Hasina was addressing that killed and wounded many. He has always denied the allegations, calling them politically motivated, and has since been acquitted in all cases following Hasina's ouster.

Since returning, Rahman has adopted a noticeably understated style, avoiding inflammatory rhetoric and calling instead for restraint and reconciliation. He has spoken of restoring "people's ownership of the state" and rebuilding institutions — a message that has energised BNP supporters eager for a fresh start.

In several interactions, Rahman acknowledged that the task ahead of him in the country of 170 million people would be daunting, with the recovery of a shattered economy being a key challenge. Rahman has pledged to recalibrate Bangladesh's international partnerships to attract investment without tying the country too closely to any single power, in contrast with Hasina, who was seen as aligned with India. He has also highlighted expanding financial aid for poor families, reducing reliance on garment exports by promoting industries such as toys and leather goods.

Analysts and observers said the lack of discipline within the BNP poses a major challenge for him. During the past 18 months, party activists largely earned a bad reputation in general for extorting and seizing the businesses of political opponents. Rahman's grip on the party is strong. Party insiders said he directly oversaw candidate selection, strategy and alliance talks, roles he once performed remotely. He may be a product of dynastic politics, but Rahman said restoring democracy would be his biggest priority. "Only by practicing democracy can we prosper. If we practice democracy, we can establish accountability," he said. "So we want to practice democracy, we want to rebuild our country." AGENCIES

After Gen Z uprising, vote shows limits of youth power

Youth Activists-Led National Citizen Party Wins Just 6 Of 30 Seats It contested

Dhaka: In an election triggered by a Gen Z-led uprising in Bangladesh, a youth-driven party secured only six seats in the 300-member parliament, showing the challenge of turning street momentum into wins.

When it came to it, results showed on Friday that voters overwhelmingly chose the long-established BNP, which has already ruled the country three times, most recently from 2001-2006. They largely stayed away from the National Citizen Party which emerged from the 2024 protests that toppled former PM Sheikh Hasina.

Many of its supporters said the NCP effectively took itself out of the race by choosing in Dec to run alongside another long-established movement — Jamaat-e-Islami party.

The NCP had initially planned to contest nearly all seats, but ended up competing in only 30 in the coalition, which it said it joined because it needed the clout of a major player after a prominent member of the uprising was killed in Dhaka.

Analysts said the NCP had also failed to build up a big enough support base in time for the vote. "They did not live up to the hopes and dreams people had after the 2024 uprising," 23-year-old university student Sohanur Rahman said. "The NCP's alignment with Jamaat felt like a betrayal, and many young voters like us chose not to support them."

Many of its supporters said the NCP effectively took itself out of the race by choosing in Dec to run alongside Jamaat-e-Islami party

One of the six NCP winners was Abdullah Al Amin, 32, a lawyer and joint secretary of the party. He said the party had expected to win more seats and it only lost some by small margins. "We have just started our journey," he said. "We want to ride a long journey to change Bangladesh, real change that we were aspiring for when we took to the streets in July 2024."

Abdullah Al Amin said the alliance with Jamaat had helped the NCP win the seats it did. But Shakil Ahmed, a govt and politics professor at Jahangirnagar University, said the alliance had pushed away young voters who had wanted a brand new political class after the fall of Hasina. "Many saw it as a retreat into old politics rather than a break from it," Ahmed said. "This decision divided the youth vote and strengthened support for the BNP under Tarique Rahman, which appeared more organised and capable of governing."

NCP spokesperson Asif Mahmud said the party would rebuild itself in opposition and focus on local govt elections due in a year. REUTERS

4 from minority communities secure victory

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Among the candidates from religious minority communities in the Bangladesh elections, four have secured victory. All the winning candidates are from the BNP. While the party had fielded six candidates from minority communities, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Nagorik Party had nominated one each.

The results hold significance in the backdrop of violence targeting the religious Hindu minority in the country. The community has faced a series of attacks, some fatal, after the killing of radical youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi in Dec.

Among the winners are Gayeswar Chandra Roy, Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Saching Pru and Dipen Dewan. While Gayeswar Roy is a former state minister, Nitai Roy is the vice chairman of BNP's central committee. Gayeswar won from Dhaka-3 constituency defeating his nearest rival from Jamaat-e-Islami, Md Shahinur Islam by over 16,000 seats. Nitai defeated Jamaat's Md Mushfiqul Billah by over 30,000 votes. While Pru won from Bandarban constituency by over 100,000 votes; Dewan, who won from Rangamati seat, defeated his rival by over 150,000 votes.

Jamaat wins in Bangla border areas spark worries

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Concerns have deepened after Friday's Bangladesh poll results showed hardliner Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies winning many of their 68 seats in areas bordering India. The total tally is Jamaat's highest in over 25 years.

Jamaat's historical and ideological proximity with Pakistan raises the risks for India, a peril flagged by BJP. The saffron party had bagged in 2021 more than 16 Bengal assembly constituencies that share borders with the areas of Bangladesh where Jamaat has made inroads. "Bangladesh is a different country. We expect the newly formed govt to maintain law and order and ensure minorities will not be persecuted. But Jamaat's victory along the border is worrying. It clearly shows there has been strong radicalisation on both sides of the border," Union minister Sukanta Majumdar of BJP said.

South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda and Alipurduar are among the Bengal districts that share borders with Bangladesh zones where Jamaat has come up trumps. Broadly, Jamaat has put its footprint on much of western Bangladesh, including Satkhira, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Gaibandha.

Functionaries of exiled former PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League indicated that Jamaat, banned earlier, started spreading its influence over the past year: "Jamaat is a radical outfit which believes in hardlines which was never acceptable to democratic parties like Awami League. Unfortunately, they spread their organisation during the tenure of the interim govt," said Salim Mahmud, former Awami League MP of Chandpur (I).

In the 2001 election, Jamaat won 17 seats. In 2008, it was reduced to two. In 2013, Jamaat's registration was cancelled by Bangladesh's Supreme Court. While Hasina banned Jamaat, the interim govt lifted it in 2024.

We voted believing in democracy, hope new govt delivers justice: Dipu Das' kin

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Rabi Chandra Das shows a photo of his son Dipu who was burnt alive on Dec 18 last year

As Bangladesh moves towards the formation of a new democratically-elected govt led by the BNP, the family of 28-year-old Dipu Chandra Das — who was burnt alive on Dec 18 last year — said they exercised their right to vote in the hope of securing justice.

Dipu, a garment factory worker, was killed in a brutal attack that sent shockwaves across the world after a video of the attack was widely circulated on social media.

On Thursday, all five eligible voters in his household cast their ballots in the Mymensingh-2 constituency of Mymensingh district. Speaking to **TOI** over the phone, his father, Rabi Chandra Das, said, "All five voters in our household — including me, Dipu's mother, his wife, his brother and his aunt — exercised our franchise because we believe in the democratic values of the country. We now hope that the new govt will deliver justice to us."

He said the family is trying to come to terms with the loss but the trauma remains raw. "The scars will remain forever in our hearts. We just hope that the newly formed govt will expedite the process of delivering justice to our son, who never deserved such a fate," he added.

Dipu's younger brother, Apu Chandra Das, 22, who is the complainant in the case naming a mob of around 140 people, said representatives of both the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami visited their home during the election campaign.

"They urged us to use our voting rights for democracy and assured us of their support whenever required. While we continue to cope with the loss, we see participation in the electoral process as a step towards accountability and justice under the incoming govt," he said.

On the night of Dec 18, Dipu was at work when two colleagues allegedly accused him of posting blasphemous content on social media. They assaulted him before handing him over to a mob waiting outside the factory. The crowd attacked him with canes and rods amid religious sloganeering, hanged him from a tree at a nearby square and set him ablaze. The assailants also recorded and circulated videos of the attack. Married three years ago, Dipu is survived by his wife and one-year-old daughter. He was the sole earner for a family of eight.

Both Jamaat and NCP allege result tampering; EC dismisses claims

▸Continued from P1

BNP secy general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir congratulates Tarique Rahman

Islami Andolon Bangladesh won one seat, and independent candidates seven.

BNP was in office earlier between 2001 and 2006 when Jamaat was its crucial partner, with two of its functionaries serving as ministers.

Jamaat, on Friday, raised allegations of "abnormal delays" and "result tampering", warning that it would launch a tough movement if the public mandate were "snatched away". Speaking to reporters at the Election Commission building early morning, Jamaat's assistant secretary general Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair alleged that returning officers were intentionally delaying results to favour a "particular party". "In the seats contested by our top leaders, results should have been declared by 8pm or 9pm according to the signed sheets given to polling agents," Zubair said. NCP, floated with Yunus's blessings last year, also brought allegations of "result tampering and planned fraud" in multiple Dhaka seats in particular.

The Election Commission dismissed allegations of manipulation regarding voters' appearances in polling centres. Election Commissioner Brig Gen Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah (Retd) said on Friday the spontaneous and massive participation of people in the election proved that "we are ultimately victorious as a nation".

More than 2,000 candidates, including several independents, were in the fray for 299 of the 300 parliamentary constituencies that went to the polls.

7 women candidates elected to parliament: Seven women candidates, majority of them from the BNP, have been elected to Bangladesh parliament, a media report said on Friday. The BNP has seen six of its female nominees win their respective seats, the Dhaka Tribune said. The BNP had fielded 10 female candidates. PTI

Trump Pulls The Plug On Climate Protection

Revokes 2009 Federal Finding Declaring Greenhouse Gases As Health Threat

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

President Donald Trump dismissed climate science as a 'scam'

Washington: The US has gone cold on global warming after putting climate safeguards on ice. In a sweeping move, President Trump on Thursday revoked the 2009 "endangerment finding" issued under Barack Obama, which had declared that greenhouse gases threaten public health and welfare. The ruling empowered the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon dioxide, methane and other climate pollutants under the Clean Air Act. Without it, the legal backbone of American climate policy collapses.

Calling the repeal "the single largest deregulatory action in American history", Trump stood beside EPA administrator Lee Zeldin and framed the decision as a victory for economic growth and consumer choice. He dismissed climate science as a "scam", arguing that regulating greenhouse gases had unfairly burdened the auto industry and raised costs.

The 2009 endangerment finding followed the landmark Supreme Court case Massachusetts vs EPA, which affirmed that greenhouse gases qualify as pollutants. It became the foundation for limits on vehicle emissions, power plants and oil and gas operations across the world. Its repeal is expected to increase US emissions significantly over the coming decades, while taking the lid off controls across the world if it decides American abdication has nuked climate science.

Earth has already warmed about 1.4°C above pre-industrial levels, according to scientists, who warn the world is on track for roughly 2.6°C of warming by the century's end — far beyond the safer threshold set in the Paris Agreement. The US withdrawal from that accord under Trump, and now the dismantling of domestic climate authority, signals a retreat at precisely the moment global cooperation is most urgent.

From the vantage point of a developing nation like India, the decision reverberates far beyond American borders. Acutely vulnerable to heatwaves, erratic monsoons, glacial melt and sea-level rise — the human and economic implications for New Delhi are stark. According to the Climate Risk Index covering 1995-2024, nearly 430 climate disasters in India have killed more than 80,000 people, while economic losses are estimated at around $170 billion (approx ₹14 lakh crore) over the past three decades.

The US remains the world's second-largest annual emitter after China, but it is historically the single biggest contributor to greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution. For years, developing nations have faced intense diplomatic pressure to curb emissions. India and China were frequently vilified in Western political discourse as climate laggards, even as they argued — correctly — that the US and Europe had built their prosperity on two centuries of fossil-fuel combustion. India, still battling energy deficits, was dragged kicking and screaming into global climate pacts, committing to ambitious renewable energy targets and net-zero timelines despite low per-capita emissions compared to the US.

The move fulfils a goal of conservative activists who viewed the endangerment finding as the legal linchpin of climate regulation. Trump and his MAGA faithful framed the move as restoring economic freedom and resisting what they call "heavy-handed" mandates even though the biggest votary of EVs — Elon Musk — is a camp follower.

Officials: US aircraft carrier will be deployed to W Asia

Gerald R Ford and its escort ships deployed to the Caribbean will be sent to the West Asia and are not expected to return to their home ports until late April or early May. The ship's crew was informed of the decision Thursday, according to four US officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The Ford strike group's new orders will have it joining the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group in the Persian Gulf as part of President Trump's resurgent pressure campaign against Iran. Trump had indicated earlier this week that he wanted to send a second carrier to the region, but neither he nor the navy had identified the vessel. NYT

WORLD DIGEST

Merz slams Trump's reorientation of US foreign policy: 'Int'l order no longer exists'

Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany criticised President Trump's rapid reorientation of US foreign policy, saying at the opening of Europe's largest annual security conference Friday that the rules-based international order had collapsed. But Merz also urged Europe and the US to continue working together, switching to speaking English from German to address Americans as "friends" and warn that the US could not "go it alone." "The international order based on rights and rules is currently being destroyed," Merz said at the Munich Security Conference. He added, "This order, as flawed as it has been even in its heyday, no longer exists in that form." Merz suggested the Trump administration's actions over the past year meant that the US' claim to global leadership had been "challenged, and possibly squandered." Merz also criticised Europe for not doing enough to bolster its security and to grow its economies independently of the US, and he insisted that the two needed to continue working together, including through Nato.

Goldman Sachs' top lawyer departs amid revelations about her ties to Epstein

Goldman Sachs' top lawyer, **Kathryn Ruemmler**, resigned Thursday in the wake of the justice department's release of emails and other material that revealed her extensive relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. Ruemmler and representatives for Goldman said for years that she had a strictly professional relationship with Epstein. Before joining Goldman in 2020, Ruemmler was a counselor, confidant and friend to Epstein, the documents showed. She advised him on how to respond to tough questions about his sex crimes, discussed her dating life and addressed him as "sweetie" and "Uncle Jeffrey." Epstein, in turn, provided career advice on her move to Goldman, introduced her to well-known businesspeople and showered her with gifts of spa treatments, high-end travel and Hermes luxury items. Ruemmler earlier served as White House counsel under President Barack Obama.

BEML LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)
Chitrad Office Complex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1, Bhopal-462011, Madhya Pradesh, India.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e tender through BEML SRM Portal

BEML LIMITED, Bhopal invites Public Tender-E mode (TWO Bid System) for civil works tender ref. 6300040354 for Engineering, Procurement & Construction pertaining to establishment of Rail coach factory near Umaria village, Obaidullaganj, District- Raisen, Madhya Pradesh (India) PIN code 464993 on EPC Mode.

Approx. estimated value : Rs. 857.02 Crores
EMD amount : Rs. 13,14,04,465.00
Last date & time for submission of bids : 10.03.2026 at 13:00 Hrs

Further details of tender can be obtained from following website:
https://www.bemlindia.in/active-tenders/ ==RO DO Marketing »
Ref No. : 6300040354 == Tender Document
SRM Portal : https://bemlepsl.bemlindia.in:50001/irj/portal

Bidders are advised to visit above websites frequently for any corrigendum, extension, etc.

Sd/- Sr. Manager

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
Institution Deemed to be University and a Unitised Category
A Constituent Unit of National Institute
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Advt. No. 07/2025-26

S.No.	Name of the Post & Pay Level	No. of Post(s)	Pay Level
1	Technical Assistant Gr. I (Jr. Engineer - Civil)	01	Pay Level-6 (Rs. 35400 - 112400)
2	Multi Tasking Staff (MTS)	01	Pay Level-1 (Rs. 18000 - 56900)

Advt. No. 08/2025-26 (Reserved for PwBD)

3	Technical Assistant Gr. II (Jr. Electronics Technician)	01	Pay level - 5 (Rs.29200 - 92300)
4	Technical Assistant Gr. II (Graphic Assistant)	01	Pay level - 5 (Rs.29200 - 92300)
5	Junior Secretariat Assistant (Hindi Typist)	01	Pay Level - 2 (Rs.19900 - 63200)

For Details, Visit the Institute website: https://www.nittttr.ac.in -sd- DIRECTOR

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology
Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Advt. No. A-12024/02/2025-ESTT-DBT

The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is hereby inviting online applications from Indian citizens for filling up of the posts of **Scientist 'C'** on direct recruitment basis as per details given below:-

1. **Name of Post** : Scientist 'C'
2. **Description** : Group 'A' Gazetted Post (Scientific)
3. **Scale of Pay** : Pay Matrix Level-11 (7th CPC)
4. **Vacancies** : Ten (10) [UR-04, OBC(NCL)-03, SC-01, ST-01, EWS-01]*
   [*Out of the above 10 Posts one Post is reserved for PwBD(D,HH)]
5. **Nature of Post** : Permanent
   Submission of hard copies of applications is NOT REQUIRED.

Note:
1. **The last date for receipt of online applications** for the above post will be **30 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement.
2. **The online portal for filling up the application form** will be activated from the date of publication of this notification.
3. For **eligibility conditions, online portal link and other details**, please visit the Department's website: **dbtindia.gov.in/whats-new/vacancies**

MACS - Agharkar Research Institute
An Autonomous Institute Under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
Gopal Ganesh Agarkar Road, Pune - 411 004. Email: pers@mcs.ac.in

RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTISTS

MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, is committed to the promotion of science and technology with emphasis on basic sciences & research and development activities for the benefit of humankind and the nation. The current research activities encompass biological sciences and those in the thrust areas like Energy & Paleobiology, Ecology, Biomonitoring, Bio-degradable Drugs, Cancer & Pest Biology, and Natural Products.

MACS-ARI invites applications from eligible Indian Citizens, for entry/employment in Central Govt. Government/Autonomous Registered Research Institutes/Public Sector Undertakings or other Government funded organizations, for filling up the following positions on direct recruitment basis as per the details given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Pay Level	No. of Post(s)	Age Limit	Category
1	Scientist-E Science Assessment	11	1 (One)	48	UR
2	Scientist-C Toxicology	11	1 (One)	42	UR
3	Scientist-B Paleontology	10	1 (One)	38	OBC (NCL)
4	Scientist-B Bio-informatics	10	1 (One)	38	SC

Age Relaxation: Relaxation in the age limit shall be in accordance with the Central Government Rules in force.
For Terms of the advertisement are available on the Institute website: https://pers.mcs.ac.in. Interested candidates may apply for the post in the prescribed online format available at https://pers.mcs.ac.in
The last date of submission of applications as per the general terms & conditions as mentioned in the advertisement.
Ref/Advt/Pers/2026/01/0001/20 Director, ARI

Haldwani Rudrapur Cluster SWM Society (HRCSWMS)
(Nagar Nigam Haldwani-Kathgodam)

Reference No. 110 Date 13/02/2026

E-Tender Notice

Request for Proposal (RFP) are invited for Treatment of Legacy Waste under SWM with Bio-Remediation & Bio- Mining Techniques at Haldwani Distt-Nainital" from the eligible Consortium/developers/Agencies/ Firms through online portal http://uktenders.gov.in. Details/RFP & Schedule of Bidding Process can also be downloaded from this portal from 14/02/2026.

(Paritosh Verma) Member Secretary Nagar Ayukta

(Gajraj Singh Bisht) Honourable Chairman/ Mayor

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Special Crime Branch
Sector 30-A, Chandigarh
Phone/Fax - 0172-2657285

REWARD OF RS. 2,00,000/-

NAME	ANNU KUMARI
FATHER'S NAME	ASHOK KUMAR
PERMANENT ADDRESS	VILLAGE JHUJH KALYANA PS SAIBAL KHAN, PANIPAT, HARYANA.
AGE	20(AS ON 08.08.2025 IE 30 Years (Accurate)
HEIGHT	5'1"

Ms. Annu Kumari is shown above is missing from 06.08.2025. In this regard, CBI, SCB Sector 30-A, Chandigarh has registered a case on 07.08.2025 and investigation is in progress. CBI hereby declares a reward of Rs. 2,00,000/- to any person/General Public who will provide credible information leading to finding the missing girl Ms. Annu. The name and identity of this informant will be kept secret.

All members of the general public are hereby requested to come forward, if they have any credible information about missing girl Annu or any other relevant information. They may contact the Investigating Officer or the Supervisory Officer on the below mentioned numbers or visit CBI Office at Sector-30-A, Chandigarh.

Sh. Gurpreet Singh
Inspector of Police
Investigation Officer
Phone no : 98885-01676

Sh. Navdeep Singh Brar, IPS
Head of Branch
CBI, ACB, Chandigarh
Phone/Fax - 0172-2657285

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru - 560 080

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR
Advt. No. 05/2026 dt. 14.02.2026

RRI invites applications/nominations from eminent academicians / researchers with substantial experience and achievements in the area of Physical Sciences for the position of Director who is an Indian National. The Director is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Institute and will have overall administrative control of the Institute and will provide high-level leadership to the Institute in identifying research programmes and projects of national and international relevance across the various specialized fields of research undertaken by the Institute.

The incumbent will be appointed on Direct Recruitment / Deputation, including short-term contract / re-employment on a contract basis for maximum of five years or until the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier, as per the Government of India norms. The present age of superannuation is 60 years. The Director's age should not exceed **56 years** as on the date of the last date for **determining the age limit is 01 January 2026. The position carries the** pay scale of Pay level 17, i.e. ₹2,25,000/- per month as per the Revised Pay Rules, 2016 of the Government of India.

The last date for receipt of applications / nominations is 20 March **2026. The detailed advertisement can be viewed at** https://www.rri.res.in/careers/regular-other-openings

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K-tech STARTUP KARNATAKA

Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Program (RGEP)

[Inviting applications from eligible candidates under Rajiv Gandhi Entrepreneurship Program to cultivate innovation and foster entrepreneurship among young & talented graduates].

The Department of EL IT & BT, Government of Karnataka invites applications(online mode) from innovators who have completed 3 year or 4 year graduation programme (Science/ Engineering stream) in Karnataka for an earlystage funding program (Subsistence grant/Stipend for Innovators) that nurtures ideas and innovations to promote innovative endeavours, startups initiated by students or entrepreneurs.

For details about the program and eligibility criteria please visit: **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/startup/public/107/rajiv-gandhi-entrepreneurship-programme**

Last date to submit application form is **15/03/2026 up to 5.00 pm.**

Link to application form
https://forms.gle/Z6yFFfXpXLq6ffiS6

For further clarifications, please contact:
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59 Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231007
E-mail: rgep.startupkarn@gmail.com

DIPR/OP/56842/AKAR/2025-26

Directorate, Medical Education & Research, Haryana, Panchkula
6th floor, DHL Square, Plot no. 9, IT Park, Sector-22, Panchkula, Haryana-134112
Ph. No. 0172-2584633, 2560796
email : dmer-hry@nic.in
Website : https://dmer.haryana.gov.in/

Advt. No. DMER/Recit./IF-14/2025/01 Closing Date: 14.03.2026 Upto 05:00 PM.

Applications are invited for filling up of vacant post of Director in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Chhainsa, Faridabad, Haryana.

Note :

1. The application along with requisite documents in support of educational qualification must reach the office of Director, Medical Education & Research, 6th floor, DHL Square, IT Park, Plot No. 9, Sector-22, Haryana, Panchkula latest by 14.03.2026 upto 05:00 PM along with requisite fees.
2. The date of interview of the eligible candidates shall be displayed on the Department's website i.e. https://dmer.haryana.gov.in/ No separate letters will be sent by post, hence the applicants are advised to visit the same regu arly.
3. Detailed application form, eligibilities and other terms and conditions are available on http:/dmer.haryana.gov.in.
4. Candidates are requested to visit the same for regular updates.

Yashendra Singh IAS
Director,
Medical Education & Research,
Haryana, Panchkula.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Department of Regulation, Regional Office, Bengaluru
www.rbi.org.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Sri Ramachandra Enterprises Private Limited having its registered address at Bamboo Premises, Udyambag, Belgaum, Karnataka – 590008 has by its letter dated October 14, 2025, voluntarily surrendered the Certificate of Registration (CoR), on account of it ceasing to be a legal entity due to amalgamation/merger, and requested the Reserve Bank of India to cancel the CoR issued to it under section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

2. In exercise of powers conferred under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (the 'Act'), the Reserve Bank of India, has cancelled the CoR No. B-02.00190 dated September 11, 2001, issued to M/s Sri Ramachandra Enterprises Private Limited (CIN - U45201KA1995PTC019136) on January 08, 2026, for carrying on the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined in Section 45-I(a) of the Act.

3. The list containing the names of Non-Banking Financial Companies whose certificate of registration have been cancelled is published in the official website of the Reserve Bank, https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_NBFCList.aspx, and the same is being updated regularly.

This is issued in public interest.

Place: Bengaluru -sd-
Date: February 14, 2026 General Manager

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिला, मंगलुरु

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेसर्स श्री रामचंद्र एंटरप्राइजेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, जिसका पंजीकृत पता बैम्बो परिसर, उद्यमबाग, बेलगाम, कर्नाटक - 590008 है, ने अपने पत्र दिनांक 14 अक्टूबर, 2025 के तत्र द्वारा, प्रतिकरण/विलय के कारण वित्तीय इकाई न रहने के कारण, परिणामस्वरूप अपना पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र (सीओआर) वापस करने का अनुरोध किया है कि वह भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45-आईए के तहत उसे जारी किए गए सीओआर प्रमाणपत्र को रद्द कर दे।

2. भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 ('अधिनियम') की धारा 45-आईए (6) के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 45-आई (ए) में यथा परिभाषित गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय संस्थान का कारोबार करने के लिए मेसर्स श्री रामचंद्र एंटरप्राइजेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (सीआईएन- U45201KA1995PTC019136) को दिनांक 11 सितंबर 2001 को जारी सीओआर प्रमाणपत्र संख्या बी-02.00190 को जो कंपनी अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 7 के तहत निगमित है, 08 जनवरी 2026 को रद्द कर दिया है।

3. जिन गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों के पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र रद्द कर दिए गए हैं, उनकी सूची, रिज़र्व बैंक की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट, https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_NBFCList.aspx पर उपलब्ध की जाती है, और इसे नियमित रूप से अद्यतन किया जा रहा है।

यह जनहित में जारी किया गया है।

स्थान: मंगलूरु -sd/-
दिनांक: 14 फरवरी 2026 क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

Advertisement Notice No. A.12018/02/2024-Estt./263

Applications are invited for filling up the following post on Deputation (Including short term contract)/ promotion from Officer of Central or State Government or Union Territories or Central or State Government Universities or Central or State Government Autonomous Institutions or Central or State Government Public Sector Undertakings possessing the qualifications as prescribed:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Level
01	Medical Record Officer	01 (One)	Level 6 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 35400-112400)

Related details can be seen on our website www.cipranchi.nic.in
Sd/-Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

Advertisement Notice No. A.12018/3/2020-Estt./262

Applications are invited for filling up the following post on Deputation (Including short term contract)/ promotion from Officer of Central or State Government or Union Territories or Central or State Government Autonomous Institutions or Central or State Government Public Sector Undertakings possessing the qualifications as prescribed:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Level
01	Library and Information Assistant	01 (One)	Level 6 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 35400-112400)

Related details can be seen on our website www.cipranchi.nic.in
Sd/-Director

Call for Applications for admission to the Ph. D. Programme for the academic year 2026-27

Advt. No. 01/2026

UM-DAE Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai invites applications for admissions to the Ph.D. Programme in Basic Sciences. For application form and other details, visit:

https://www.cbs.ac.in/Academics/ph-d-programme

LAST DATE for submission of application: **28.02.2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, our client is proposing to acquire rights in the Schedule Property, (mentioned hereunder) under the Schedule hereto) from Rosemary Durai Nadar.

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may make/establish by way of easement, beneficial interest of proprietor or under any agreement or other disposition of under any sale or lease passed by any Court or Authority or arbitrator, by whatever power of attorney, bequest, HUF, development rights, gift, inheritance, family arrangement or settlement or on attorney or any other mode whatsoever ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it exists, the same shall be deemed to have been relinquished such Claim and/or waived their rights or claims as such Claim.

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

Unit No. 406A, admeasuring a saleable area of 2,308.18 square feet, forming part of the 4th Floor of the building known as "Novel MIDC Park", constructed on land bearing no. 1 (pt) of CTS Number 1, Survey No. 93/8, 93/9A/2 and 93/3, located at Mahakali Caves Road, Marathwadi Village, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 093, admeasuring 1,500 sq. ft. Carpet Area, together with 3 (three) Car Parking Spaces.

Dated this 14th February 2026

Rajiv Khaitan, Advocate
Khaitan & Co
Embassy Quest, 4th Floor
45/1, Bhagwan Road
Bengaluru - 560 005

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

E-NIT No. : ET-KNK-Civil-25-KNK, dated 12.02.2026. In behalf of Executive Engineer (Signal & Telecom), Engineer, S.E. Railway, Kendriya Sadan on behalf of President of India for the following work. Name of the work : Excavation of all soil/ works in connection with Yard Remodelling work including replacement of old Panel Interlocking by a new Latitude Electronic Interlocking at Nandhini (NDH) station of Bangalore Division including S&T works in connection with passenger amenities at Nandhini (NDH) station of Bangalore Division on Bangalore-Kadur-Arsikere-Birur-Shimoga Town-Talaguppa-Sirsi-Hubballi-Londa-Tinaighat-Tadas-Vasco-Madgaon-Tadas-Londa-Hubballi-Marshallahalli Section. Estimated Cost : ₹ 18,28,15,709.24. EMD: ₹ 18,14,900/-. Cost of Tender document : Nil. Date & Time for closing of e-Tender: 09.03.2026 @ 11.00 hrs. Bidding start date : 20.02.2026 Website particulars and details : www.ireps.gov.in (www.ireps.gov.in) (PR-41186)

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 12.02.2026

Madan Raju
ADD & Partners.
Advocates & Solicitors
Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru -560 052.
Email: madan.raju@addpartners.com Tel: + 91 80 4240 8500

PUBLIC NOTICE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural/converted lands, situated at Bidaru Nagasandra Village, Manchahalli Hobli (earlier Varthur Hobli), Bengaluru East Taluk (earlier Bengaluru South Taluk).

All persons having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within two (02) days of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within two (02) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owners with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrances of any kind whatsoever and any person/s has any claim, right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, if any, claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within two (02) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural/converted lands, situated at Bidaru Nagasandra Village, Manchahalli Hobli (earlier Varthur Hobli), Bengaluru East Taluk (earlier Bengaluru South Taluk).

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extents A	G	Name of the Owners	East	West	North	South
1.	24 (converted)	1	06	Ghodawat Industries India Private Limited, with its registered office at Gat Nos. 'Plot No. 435, Near	33/10	37/6	23/11, 23/12, 23/13 & 23/14	Bidar Nagasandra Main Road.
2.	22/1 (converted)	0	8.32	Chinni via, Post Box No. 1130, Jamnagar Kolhapur (MH)*)	23/2	36/11 & 36/12	24/3 & 23/1	21/2
3.	22/2 (converted)	0	4.63	GRPL	Partition 23/3	22/1	Portion of Sy.No. 23/2	21/2
4.	23/3 (converted)	0	05	GRPL	Partition 23/4	23/2	Portion of Sy.No. 23/3	21/2 and 21/3
5.	22/5 (converted)	0	3.16	GRPL	22/7	22/3	Remaining portion of 22/5	21/3
6.	22/7 (converted)	0	1.7	GRPL	23/8	22/5 and portion of Sy.No. 22/7	Remaining portion of 22/7	21/3
	22/8 (converted)	0	03	GRPL	23/9	23/3	23/5, 23/6, 23/7 and 23/8	21/3&7
7.	23/5 (converted)	0	38	GRPL	23/5	23/4	23/3	28
	23/6 (converted)	0	1.50		21	23/8 & 27/3	23/5, 23/6, 23/7 & 23/11	21/5 and Bidar Nagasandra Main Road.
8.	23/7 (converted)	0	5 h	GRPL	Remaining portion of Sy No. 23/7	24/3	23/7 & 24/3	22/2 & 22/1
9.	24/1 (converted)	0	14	Sanjay Dhanchand Ghodawat, residing at 2549, Sukhraj Sanjay Ghodawat Housing Society, Jaisingpur, Kolhapur District, Maharashtra. ("Sanjay Dhanchand")	24/2	Remaining portion of 24/1	25/3 & 54*	24/1
10.	24/2 (converted)	0	5.40	Sanjay Dhanchand	24/3 & portion of 24/2	24/1 & portion of Sy.No. 24/2	54	24/2 and 29/12
11.	24/3 (converted)	0	2.23	GRPL	24/4	24/2 & 24/3	24/3 & 24/3	22/1 and 29/12
11.	25/3	0	1	GRPL	54	25/3	54 (Pt)	24/1
12.	29/12			GRPL	22/1	29/9	24/2 & 24/3	29/10 & 29/11

TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U99030TG2023SGC186622/2015/AR
REGISTERED OFFICE: 6TH FLOOR, PARISHRAMA BHAVAN, BASHEERBAGH, HYDERABAD - 500004
Email: secretary.tsiic@telangana.gov.in , Website: www.tgiicinfra.telangana.gov.in

UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2025

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 Months ended 31.12.2025 (Unaudited)	2 Months ended 30.09.2025 (Unaudited)	3 Months ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	9 Months ended 31.12.2025 (Unaudited)	9 Months ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	For the year ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net) (Lakhs)	1,49,742.89	3,625.47	8,486.20	1,79,120.08	24,654.12	98,870.86
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (Lakhs)	-7,060.93	-23,077.20	-2,196.79	-44,038.21	4,324.02	-5,597.91
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (Lakhs)	-7,060.93	-23,077.20	-2,196.79	-44,038.21	4,324.02	-5,597.91
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (Lakhs)	-7,060.93	-23,077.20	-1,144.50	-44,038.21	3,376.19	-5,597.91
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ Loss for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] (Lakhs)	-7,060.93	-23,077.20	-1,144.50	-44,038.21	3,376.19	-5,606.20
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 1000 each)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (Lakhs)	-4,691.19		52,460.68			71,900.49
8.	Networth (in Crores)	-468.8	141.80	531.61	314.33	531.61	290.49
9.	Debt Equity Ratio (times)	-32.17	3.41	63.45	-32.47	12.69	14.20
10.	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (₹) (Not Annualized) (Face Value ₹ 1000 per share)						
	Basic EPS	-7060.930	-23077.2038	-1144.4950	-44038.2100	-60.0618	61,710.0100
	Diluted EPS	-17,294.84	-152,349.61	-2,610.16	-66,867.60	-4,816.29	-4,780.87
11.	Debt Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Not of Times)	0.39	2.49	0.01	0.03	1.20	0.80
14.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Not of Times)	0.39	2.49	0.01	0.03	1.20	0.80

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges(Under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations). The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange (National Stock Exchange (NSE) website www.nseindia.com and on the company web site www.tgiicinfra.telangana.gov.in

Sd/-
(For and on behalf of the Board)
K. Shashanka,
Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 11008787

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, Tel. No.: +91 (033) 2359 7209, www.wbsedcl.in

Extract from the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Three Months ended on 31.12.2025 (₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended
		31.12.2025 Un-Audited	31.12.2024 Un-Audited	31.03.2025 Audited	31.12.2025 Un-Audited	31.12.2024 Un-Audited	31.03.2025 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	524755	856071	3874533	524755	856071	3874533
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3876	(732)	13854	3876	(732)	13854
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3876	(732)	13854	3876	(732)	13854
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2277	(945)	13055	2277	(945)	13055
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	3618	1457	3388	3618	1457	3388
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	519331	427312	470088	519331	427312	470088
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	72047	62907	60756	72047	62907	60756
8	Securities Premium Account	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Net Worth	396437	431880	491909	396437	431880	491909
10	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	1342668	1648834	1465771	1342668	1648834	1465771
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.50	1.94	1.54	1.50	1.94	1.54
13	Earnings Per Share of ₹ 10/- each for Continuing and Discontinued Operations)						
	1. Basic & Diluted before extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (Quarterly figures are not annualized)	1.61	1.32	0.38	1.61	1.32	0.38
	2. Basic & Diluted after extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (Quarterly figures are not annualized)	0.04	(0.02)	0.29	0.04	(0.02)	0.29
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	18408	23004	23451	18408	23004	23451
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.59	0.72	0.76	0.59	0.72	0.76
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.87	1.38	1.90	1.87	1.38	1.90

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Limited Reviewed Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Full format of the Statements of Limited Reviewed Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Company's website www.wbsedcl.in and on the website of Bombay Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com).
2. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 12th February, 2026 and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on the same day.
3. Total value of secured, redeemable, non-convertible bonds issued by the Company on private placement basis is ₹ 100000 lakh. These securities are listed with Bombay Stock Exchange in Wholesale Debt Market. Up to the end of December 2025, the Company has repaid ₹ 50000 lakh out of total value of secured, redeemable, non-convertible bonds of ₹ 100000 lakh.
4. The previous period figures have been re-grouped /re-classified, re-measured wherever necessary to confirm current period's classification.
5. The Financial Statements of West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited (WBGEDCL), only Associate Company of WBSEDCL, has been considered for preparation of Consolidated Financial Statement based on Management Certified Financial Statement obtained in this regard.
6. Ratios are calculated on annualized basis.

For West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
Sd/-
(Santanu Basu)
Chairman and Managing Director

Place: Kolkata
Date: 12.02.2026

ICA-N47[1]/2026

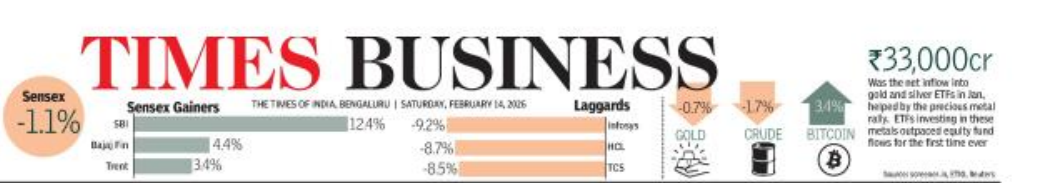
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

The Week That Was...

IT rout over AI anxiety sends indices spiralling

Sensex and Nifty were down 1.1% and 0.9% for the week as anxiety around AI automation deepened the ongoing selloff in IT stocks. **The IT index fell 4.2% this week in its worst performance in 10 months**



Infosys rolls out 85% variable payout

Bengaluru: Infosys has rolled out one of the best variable payouts for FY26 so far, with an average payout of 85% for junior- to mid-level employees, sources told TOI. For mid- to senior-level employees, the company has announced variable payouts ranging from 75% to 100%. Infosys rolled out an average bonus payout of 75% for the Sept quarter, down from 80% in the preceding one.The IT firm made a net addition of 5,643 people during the Dec quarter to end the period with 337,034 employees. Last year, Infosys indicated that it would hire 20,000 freshers this year. TNN

Uday Kotak named chairman of Gift City

Mumbai: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has been appointed as the chairman of Gift City, replacing former bureaucrat Hasmukh Adhia. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or Gift City, offers easier tax rules and regulations as it seeks to attract global capital to compete with financial centres such as Singapore and Dubai. REUTERS

Kwality Wall's India to list on Monday

Mumbai: Kwality Wall's India, Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) demerged ice-cream unit will list on the bourses on Feb 16, the company said in an exchange filing on Friday. In Nov 2024, the board of HUL had decided to demerge its ice-cream business. Kwality Wall's India's portfolio includes brands Magnum and Cornetto. TNN

RBI penalises lenders for breach of norms

Mumbai: RBI has imposed a collective fine of over Rs 1.3 crore on five lenders for flouting norms. Among them, CSB Bank has been fined Rs 63.6 lakh for out-of-scope business correspondent activities and undisclosed savings account charges. Other to be charged are Bank of Maharashtra, DCB Bank, IFL Finance and Navi Finserv. TNN

RBI: ₹500cr net worth must for M&A financing eligibility

Funding Ceiling Raised To 75%, Unlisted Cos Too May Borrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India has set a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore for a company to be eligible for acquisition financing with even unlisted companies qualifying for such funding. Through its Amendment Directions, 2026, effective April 1, the central bank expands the credit activities commercial banks may undertake, with acquisition finance at the centre.

The final circular is also more liberal than last year's draft, which was announced as part of comprehensive reforms in the wake of Trump's tariffs, indicating a shift from caution to confidence on the economy. The financing ceiling rises to 75% from the draft's 70%, reducing the acquirer's minimum equity contribution to 25% from 30%. Eligibility is widened, as the final framework admits both listed and unlisted borrowers. Ambiguity around balance-sheet strength is replaced by a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore, while unlisted acquirers are explicitly permitted if they carry an investment-grade rating of BBB- or anything higher. Even the bar on related-party deals is refined and they continue to be prohibited in principle, but financing to increase stakes in already-controlled entities is now allowed.

With the latest circular, Indian banks have finally been given room to finance corporate buyouts, a territory which was long dominated by multinational lenders.

Lenders may fund Indian non-financial companies acquiring equity or compulsorily convertible debentures that confer control, subject to prudential caps on leverage, security and governance.

The lending architecture is liberal by Indian standards but tightly hedged: funding may cover up to 75% of deal value, borrowers must maintain a consolidated debt-to-equity ratio within 3:1, and facilities must be secured by the acquired securities with corporate guarantees.

The overhaul extends beyond buyouts. Banks can now lend against a defined pool of eligible securities including shares, govt securities and rated debt, within prescribed loan-to-value limits, with continuous monitoring and swift rectification of breaches. Capital-market intermediaries gain structured access to secured credit for operational needs, margin funding and settlement mismatches, though financing for proprietary trading remains barred and equity collateral attracts steep haircuts.

RBI also issued draft norms for lending to Reits, in which it barred use of proceeds for land purchases. Banks may lend only to Sebi-registered, listed vehicles with 3-year plus track record, two-year positive distributable cash flows, clean regulatory history and no stressed special purpose vehicles. Refinance of SPV loans can be done only for completed projects.

M&A FUNDING EASIER FOR DOMESTIC BANKS

- Effective April 1, acquisition finance will be allowed only for companies with **minimum ₹500 crore net worth, including unlisted firms with BBB- or higher rating**
- Banks can now fund up to 75% of deal value (vs 70% in the draft), reducing min acquirer equity to 25%
- New rules let Indian banks finance corporate takeovers, a domain earlier dominated by foreign lenders
- Secured-lending options to widen: banks can lend against a pool of eligible securities, structured credit accessible to capital-market intermediaries, stricter norms issues for lending to REITs

Indo-Pak clash sends ad rates soaring 25%

Colombo Calling: Air Ticket Prices, Hotel Bookings Climb Ahead Of Marquee Fixture

Aarifa.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: With arch-rivals India and Pakistan set to face off in the T20 World Cup in Colombo on Sunday, ad rates for the match have soared. Companies are rushing to book slots to place their brands and cash in on the huge viewership the game is likely to attract.

Ad rates for a 10-second TV slot are now selling in the range of about Rs 30-40 lakh, which otherwise usually costs between Rs 20-25 lakh for major World Cup matches, industry experts tracking the space said. "Rates for last minute inventory have jumped by at least 20%-25%. Every second of ad slots for the match will be taken," said ad senior sports analyst and commentator Neeraj Jha, projecting broadcaster JioStar to rake in ad revenues of about Rs 2,000 crore from the tournament.

Ad rates for a 10-second slot on digital (JioHotstar) have spiked to around Rs 15-20 lakh. "Companies want to own the ad space and money is not something they are thinking about. The viewership will be so large that firms do not want to miss out on the opportunity. There's a lot of interest from auto, FMCG, financial services and real estate companies," said Kushal Sanghvi, director at global marketing firm Komerz.

JioStar did not share specific details of the advertisers for the India-Pakistan match but said that Emirates, Open AI, Birla Opus, Rapido, Amul, Mahindra & Mahindra Auto, Hyundai, Britannia and General Insurance Council are among companies that are advertising in the World Cup.

Air Ticket Prices Shoot Up

Indian cricket fans are headed to the Sri Lankan capital, taking prices of air tickets to Colombo and hotel fares in the city higher. Airfares to the city are trending significantly higher than non-event travel periods, particularly on high demand routes from major Indian metros, said Rikant Pittie, CEO and co-founder of EaseMyTrip. "On select dates, round-trip fares have risen sharply compared to regular averages, with prices increasing by as much as 45%-50% further closer to departure. This trend reflects concentrated travel demand typically seen when Team India plays overseas matches in nearby destinations," Pittie said. MakeMyTrip has seen bookings for Colombo for the weekend of Feb 15 doubling over the past three days compared to the average booking levels.

BIG GAME HUNTING IN SRI LANKA

- Ad for a **10-second TV slot** are selling in the range of about **₹30-40 lakh**
- This usually costs between **₹20-25 lakh** for other key World Cup matches
- Ad rates for a **10-second slot on digital** (JioHotstar) have spiked to **around ₹15-20 lakh**
- There's a lot of **interest from auto, FMCG, financial services and real estate companies**
- **Round-trip air fares** have risen sharply compared to regular averages, with prices increasing by as much as 45%-50% further closer to departure
- Bookings to Colombo have **surged by nearly 60%,** especially around the marquee fixture

Sensex tumbles lk pts as foreign funds sell stocks worth ₹7.4k cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Across the board selling, compounded by the recent sell-off in technology stocks around the world, pulled sensex down by 1,048 points (1.25%) on Friday. The index closed at 82,627 points. The offloading, mainly from foreign funds, came on the back of an overnight sell-off on Wall Street for which analysts and market players are using various monikers like AI-unwinding trades, AI-scare trades etc.

Following the overnight sell-off in US markets, the day's session on Dalal Street started on a weak note with the sensex down over 700 points. For most of the session, it remained in the red but in a narrow ranges only to dive sharply near the close of the session.

The day's selling was led by foreign funds that net sold stocks worth nearly Rs 7,400 crore, BSE data showed. On the other hand, domestic funds net bought stocks worth Rs 5,354 crore, but that was not enough to arrest the day's slide in the indices.

Among the sensex stocks, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries contributed the most to the day's loss. Among the IT stocks, TCS closed 3.2% lower, Infosys was down 1.3% while HCL Tech closed 1.4%. The slide in IT stocks pulled BSE's IT index down by 1.7%.

The (IT) sector continues to face headwinds amid rising concerns that rapid AI advancements could disrupt traditional service models and weigh on future revenue visibility, said Siddhartha Khemka of Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The day's selling left investors poorer by Rs 7 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 465.5 lakh crore, official data showed. Of the 30 sensex stocks, 28 closed in the red with Bajaj Finance and SBI the two gainers. In the broader market, however, the advances-decline ratio was not as skewed. Compared to 2,960 declines, there were 1,221 advances, BSE data showed.

TOPSY TURVY RIDE

Anthropic doubles valuation to $380 billion

Anthropic has raised $30 billion in its latest funding round, more than doubling the Claude chatbot maker's valuation to $380 billion and underscoring massive investor interest in the startup and the broader AI industry.

The company has differentiated itself by focusing its model training on coding, with Claude Code gaining strong traction among developers and helping the company gain an edge over rivals in the enterprise AI market.

Anthropic's recently launched series of plugins for its Cowork agent had sparked a brutal rout in global software stocks as investors debated the disruptive potential to the sector from sophisticated AI models. The funding round, announced on Thursday, was co-led by investors including D. E. Shaw Ventures, ICONIQ and MGX. It also included a portion of previously announced investments from Microsoft and Nvidia.

Altogether, backed by Google and Amazon, had raised $13 billion in a Series F round that valued the company at $183 billion, the company said in early Sept. Meanwhile, OpenAI could be valued at about $830 billion as part of talks with SoftBank Group to invest as much as an additional $30 billion in the ChatGPT maker.

Revenue Surges

Anthropic has rapidly built its revenue base — the company said its current run-rate revenue is $14 billion. For Claude Code alone, the run-rate revenue has grown to over $2.5 billion, more than doubling since the beginning of 2026. Business subscriptions to Claude Code have quadrupled since the start of the year, with enterprise use now representing over half of all Claude Code revenue, the company said. REUTERS

Ola Electric Q3 revenue drops 57% to ₹504cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Ola Electric Mobility reported revenue of Rs 504 crore for the Dec quarter, down 57% year-on-year from Rs 1,172 crore and 37% from Rs 756 crore in the Sept quarter.

Ola Electric Mobility reported a loss of Rs 467 crore for the Dec quarter, narrower than the Rs 564 crore loss a year earlier but wider than the Rs 418 crore loss in the Sept quarter.

Founder and CEO **Bhavish Aggarwal** told analysts during the Q3 earnings call that Ola Electric's heavy investment phase is complete and the company will now focus on scaling its installed capacity while addressing service execution challenges.

"The company has been in the investment phase since its inception about four to five years ago," Aggarwal said. He noted that Ola has created capacity of about one million units annually on the automotive side and will have around 6 GWh of cell capacity installed by March. "After that, our capex cycle finishes and there'll be no new capex requirement till we grow into that," he said.

Aggarwal said this installed base represents revenue potential of Rs 15,000-20,000 crore. He added that gross margins have

OLA EARNINGS

reached the 35% range and are expected to remain between 35-40% through FY27. "This has been possible because of our vertically integrated business model," he said.

On operations, Aggarwal acknowledged service challenges. "Yes, there's a service challenge. We are fixing it," he said, noting that the issue has "impacted brand trust and hence sales are down in the last couple of quarters." The company is taking what he described as a "foundational building approach" to improve service accessibility and turnaround times.

Adani to enter nuclear power via atomic energy arm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: After the Tata and JSW Groups, the Adani Group is firming up plans to enter the nuclear energy sector.

This week, the Ahmedabad-based infrastructure conglomerate incorporated a new company, Adani Atomic Energy, for the purpose. The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Power, will "generate, transmit and distribute electricity derived from nuclear and atomic energy," Adani Power said in a regulatory filing.

The move follows India's decision to open the nuclear sector to private participation as part of its long-term energy transition strategy. The govt aims to increase nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047 from the current nine GW.

Adani's entry into nuclear power has drawn criticism from opposition parties, which allege that recent regulatory changes were designed to ease the group's entry into the sector. Following Adani Power's stock exchange filing, Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said on X that the legislation was being enacted as "favour the favourite," referring to the Shanti bill as "Shriman Adani's Nuclear Tech Initiative."

Sebi proposes price bands for gold and silver ETFs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The unprecedented volatility in the prices of gold and silver in recent weeks has prompted markets regulator Sebi to have a closer look at the price bands and circuit filters for exchange traded funds (ETFs).

On Friday, Sebi proposed to put +/-20% price bands on ETFs on two precious metals, gold and silver. Part of the price band could also depend on the volatility in prices of these metals in the international markets, Sebi said. The regulator is also proposing graded price bands for ETFs on debt and equity indices, with a similar +/-20% range.

In the seven-page consultation paper, Sebi proposed an initial price band of +/-6% for gold and silver ETFs, which may be fixed up to +/-20% during the trading day subject to a cooling off period.

The regulator is also proposing graded price bands for ETFs on debt and equity indices, with a similar +/-20% range

"After exhausting the initial price band there will be a cooling-off period of 15 minutes, thereafter the price band will be fixed by 5%. In case the price movement in the international markets is more than the aggregate daily price limit (DPL) of 9%, the same may be further relaxed in stages of 5% by the exchange with a cooling-off period of 15 minutes. The single day maximum variation of +/-20% would be applicable," the consultation paper said.

Sebi is also proposing a similar price band for debt and equity ETFs.

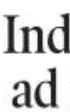
"There can be a maximum of two instances of flexing in a day. The single day maximum variation of +/-20% would be applicable. One of the conditions for relaxing the price band is that a minimum of 50 trades should be executed with 10 unique UCCs (unique client codes) and three trading members on each side of the trade at or above 9.00% and so on," Sebi proposed.

Capgemini YoY revenue up 1.7% to $26bn in FY25

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: French IT firm Capgemini reported revenues of about $26.6 billion in 2025, up 1.7% year-on-year.

Excluding a 1.7% currency headwind, constant-currency growth was 3.4%, exceeding the upper end of the outlook revised in Oct last year.



Bookings stood at $28.8 billion in 2025 and roughly $8.6 billion in the 4th quarter, maintaining strong commercial momentum with a book-to-bill ratio of 1.08 for the year and 1.21 in the quarter. Compared with 2024, bookings rose 9.8% for the year and 8.1% in Q4 at constant exchange rates. Generative AI bookings accounted for more than 8% of total bookings for the year and over 10% in the 4th quarter.

The company said that with the consolidation of WNS Holdings and Cloud4C, constant-currency growth for the final quarter reached 10.6%, with revenue totalling about $7 billion. "We're going to have another convertism as we start the year, and we'll see how the year plays out. When you look at geopolitics, discussions around tariffs, and multiple global flashpoints, you have to be cautious rather than extrapolate 4th-quarter trends to the full year. We see a solid first half and have good visibility in the second half, but there are still fluctuations that could occur during the year," said **Aiman Ezzat**, CEO of Capgemini, during the earnings call.

Company to incur about $830mn in restructuring costs over the next 2 years

Capgemini expects 2026 revenue to grow about 6.5%-8.5% at constant exchange rates and projects an operating margin in the 13.6%-13.8% range. Ezzat said the company is helping clients scale AI from pilot projects to enterprise-wide programmes by embedding AI across its portfolio, deploying it in delivery, and strengthening its partner ecosystem to accelerate time to value.

He added that Capgemini is accelerating the transformation of its capabilities to align with its growth agenda. These measures are expected to result in restructuring costs of about $830 million over the next two years. Capgemini's total headcount stood at 328,400, up 82,300 from 2024 and 68,700 from the end of September 2025, primarily reflecting the integration of WNS team members. The onshore workforce was stable year on year at 144,300 employees, while the offshore workforce increased by 82,300 to 239,200 employees.

Power up e-comm to diversify exports: Niti

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supporting e-commerce, particularly electronics-oriented exports, can contribute to export diversification, job creation, and overall economic growth, govt think tank Niti Aayog has said and called for coordinated policy and regulatory reforms to advance cross-border e-commerce.

The report released on Friday said that with growing global demand for Indian products, wider adoption of digital platforms, improved logistics, and supportive policy measures, e-commerce exports are projected to rise significantly.

It said electronics-related segments — smartphones, electronics and appliances — together account for nearly $66 billion, or about half of total e-commerce market, making it the largest segment of India's online retail market.

"Electronics e-commerce presents an opportunity to leverage scale, productivity gains, formal employment, and closer linkages with India's growing electronics manufacturing ecosystem," said the report. The think tank said that as India targets $1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030 under the Viksit Bharat vision, e-commerce exports are projected to scale rapidly to $200-300 billion.

"This expansion could raise their share in India's total exports to 20-30% and their contribution to GDP to 2.5-4.5%, underscoring the potential of e-commerce to emerge as a key pillar of India's export strategy and broader economic growth," said the Aayog's quarterly Trade Watch.

"Given India's 600 million-strong labour force and 63 million MSMEs contributing 29% of GDP and 45% of exports, e-commerce exports hold the potential to unlock new growth opportunities," said the report.

It identified several challenges and constraints in the country's e-commerce ecosystem which include complex regulatory and compliance framework, absence of dedicated customs codes for e-commerce exports, inefficient reverse logistics and duty treatment of returns, lack of coordinated ecosystem support, absence of international cooperation framework and low awareness and institutional support.

The report said global best practices show countries that have streamlined e-commerce such as China have introduced 24-hour digital customs clearance, dedicated cross-border pilot zones with tax incentives, and distinct supervision codes to simplify compliance, while also enabling platform-led logistics and a single-window duty-free returns system. It also cited the example of South Korea, which supports MSMEs through relaxed export declaration thresholds, consolidated packaging, and its export e-room model, reducing procedural burdens.

The report also said that the US complements this with institutional backing through its e-commerce solutions centre and offering training, financing, and market linkages.

ELECTRONICS HOLDS KEY: REPORT

India's e-commerce market size, by segment, in 2024 ($bn)

"SRI LANKAN PITCHES HELP SPINNERS AND INDIA HAVE A HISTORY OF PLAYING THREE SPINNERS. EXPECT KULDEEP YADAV IN THE XI AGAINST PAKISTAN IN COLOMBO."
—Sunil Gavaskar

COLOMBO CLARION CALL

In One Of The Most Anticipated India-Pak Ties In Recent Memory, Slowness Of Premadasa Track Could Have Final Say

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN COLOMBO

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The toxic fumes of animosity still linger. For now, a temporary balm has been administered with the millstone at stake. And on the face of it, things are working.

It's the Valentine's Day weekend and if you are on that morning flight to Colombo from Chennai, you can't miss the chatter around you. The day of 'love' on Saturday can be followed up with a dash of 'hate' — if you want to call it that — on Sunday. Spectators are trooping in from different parts of the country to soak in the adrenaline rush that an India-Pakistan clash has to offer.

If you choose to eavesdrop on the conversations, the "*oavum sey jitenge* (we will win easily)" narrative is unmissable. It probably stems from the recent domination in T20 cricket over Pakistan and the margin of victory against Namibia in New Delhi.

But is it that simple?

Maybe not. The game is on the same Premadasa track where Zimbabwe humbled Australia with their slow bowlers on Friday a few hours before India landed in the Lankan capital. Slam-bang cricket, India's go-to weapon in recent times, may not work as effectively as it has done in the smaller batting belters of India. The pitch here gets slower and slower and the side-boundaries of Premadasa are bigger, so clearing the fence at ease is easier said than done.

On Thursday at Delhi's Kotla ground, little-known off-spinner Gerhard Erasmus bothered India with his round-arm off-spin, which is quite similar to Pakistan's Usman Tariq's.

Tariq, a slinger, is more canny. He stops in his run-up and there is one delivery which turns quite a bit. He is leading a four-man Pakistan spin-attack that can be a serious cause of worry for the Indian middle-order.

"At this level, we just watch a few videos and we have an idea of what kind of bowling is going to happen. Erasmus bowled well and there was a bit of learning for us," Ishan Kishan, one of India's bright spots with the bat on Thursday, said after the Namibia game.

Will Abhishek be ready?

While Ishan did look menacing during his 24-ball 61, the fitness of Abhishek Sharma remains a concern for India. He is recovering from a stomach infection and has lost a significant amount of weight in the last few days. He missed the game on Thursday and everyone is waiting to see whether he will turn up for practice on Saturday in Colombo.

Abhishek is one player who rarely misses practice sessions, even if those are optional. The southpaw hasn't played any cricket in the last one week and if he has to be ready for Pakistan, he needs to have a few of things in the middle. But if India take the precautionary route and choose to rest Abhishek, it's advantage Pakistan right at the top. Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, who has been woefully out of form, can go into the game with a little more confidence. The fact that Sanju Samson isn't at his best will increase the pressure on the likes of Kishan and captain Suryakumar Yadav to put up that 180 total, which is par at the Premadasa track.

Washy a tempting option

It's the bowlers who have done the job for India in the first two matches. But at Premadasa, India may just be tempted to play off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar ahead of Rinku Singh, who failed in the first two matches. Spinners are going to play a massive role here and Washy's intelligence could just add a little more variety to the spin attack, which looks slightly Varun-centric at the moment.

Clouds looming in the horizon

The met department has issued a warning for Saturday. A low-pressure is likely to develop over south-eastern Bay of Bengal, causing significant amounts of rainfall in Colombo. A washout on Sunday, the day of the game, will be a dampener.

X-FACTOR? Usman Tariq in the Colombo nets on Friday

INDIA VS PAKISTAN ACROSS FORMATS IN SL

> "My arm bends naturally. I've got this tested and cleared. Everyone feels I bend my arm and all that. My bent arm is a biological issue."
> —Usman Tariq, PAKISTAN SPINNER

India's middle-order hitters. Tariq got hit a few times but there were occasions when he got the better of Pakistan's top batters.

As Tariq kept on bowling, the intense debate around his action swirled on the sidelines. It became a bit of India vs Pakistan beyond the boundary as a section of the Indian media insisted that his pause in action and bend in arm are illegal.

For the Pakistan media, the defence was simple. "Even your greatest offie R Ashwin has said Tariq's action is fine. Why are you even debating it," someone said.

Ashwin, though, in his latest Youtube show, has suggested a plan to deal with Tariq. "There is one thing I want to see. Who dares to do that? If Tariq pauses before delivery, the batter has the right to move away. The batter can say, 'I don't know when the ball is coming, so I moved away,'" Ashwin said.

While Tariq, with an economy rate of 5.83 in T20Is, will be Pakistan's trump card, the team management is keeping an eye on the weather. If it rains and the game gets curtailed, it is likely that Pakistan will drop two of their four spinners and play both paceman Naseem Shah and Salman Mirza, along with Shaheen Afridi.

All three bowled long spells in practice and one could figure that the team management is keeping all options open. There's another player that Pakistan are keeping ready. The left-hander Fakhar Zaman has not been in the best of form but coach Mike Hesson spent a lot of time with him on Friday.

Former Pakistan batter Ahmed Shahzad said on a show, "The team needs one more proper batter and they have to find a way to do it."

If Fakhar has to play, Sahibzada Farhan has to keep wickets, with regular 'keeper Usman Khan sitting out. It remains to be seen if Pakistan will take that extreme step to make this big match feel like a rivalry again.

Pakistan prep Tariq for date with destiny

Extensive Nets For Spinner But With An Eye On Weather, Coach Mike Hesson Considers His Pace Options Too

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Colombo: Pakistan are desperate. The three back-to-back losses in the Asia Cup to India and all that followed over the next few months have left the team hungry for revenge.

The team took a couple of days' break after their win against the USA to recharge the batteries and were back at the nets at the Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

And during the course of an intense three-hour session, the focus was on Usman Tariq. It doesn't always happen that a spinner bowls for one and a half hours at the nets with a couple of days to go for a big World Cup game. But Pakistan know the slinger is their trump card. It seemed that the 2022 finalists wanted to prepare their mystery spinner for the onslaught of Shivam Dube and Hardik Pandya, and the USA bowlers kept the Dutch chase on a tight leash and eventually got them out for 103 in 15.5 overs.

Asked to bat, USA came out all guns blazing, racing to 53-1 in the Powerplay. Mukkamalla, who was benched in USA's previous outing against Pakistan, made his return count and stitched a vital 55-run stand with skipper Monank Patel (36) for the second wicket. The American got down on one knee and lofted an exquisite shot over cover to bring up his half-century, a stroke that had the near-19,000-crowd on its feet. Exploiting the shorter off-side boundaries, Mukkamalla kept the scoreboard ticking with ease.

Brief scores: USA 106/6 (Mukkamalla 70, Ranjane 48*, de Leede 3-17) beat the Netherlands 103 (De Leede 23, Harmeet 4-21, van Schalkwyk 3-21) by 93 runs.

Aryansh, Sohaib power UAE

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Ravi Rawat

New Delhi: Just when the match seemed to be slipping away from UAE's grasp, two India-born batters scripted a stirring turnaround to power their side to a five-wicket win over Canada in a Group D clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Friday.

Ghaziabad-born Aryansh Sharma and Gaya-born Sohaib Khan forged an 84-run partnership off just 42 balls, rescuing UAE and steering them home in a chase of 151 with two balls to spare. UAE's chase had been wobbling at 66/4 in 12.3 overs when the two walked out to the middle.

Canada's bowlers, led by Gurjaanvala-born left-arm spinner Saad Bin Zafar, had tightened the screws, exploiting the slow surface to force errors. Sohaib brought the momentum first.

Having begun his cricketing journey at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi, where he represented the university from 2014 to 2019 and played consecutive North Zone tournaments in 2017 and 2018, the right-hander played with fearless intent. He took on the bowlers from the outset, piercing gaps and clearing the ropes with ease.

His 53 off 29 balls, studded with four fours and four sixes, shifted the tempo. "There was an urgency in his strokeplay. If UAE had been tentative before his arrival, they looked transformed as Sohaib took the Canadian bowlers to the cleaners. "The situation was quite tense when I came out to bat as we needed more than 12 runs per over. These kinds of situations, where one has to score more than 13-14 runs per over, are common in tennis-ball cricket and I've played those a lot," Sohaib said.

At the other end, Aryansh provided the calm. He remained unbeaten on 74 off 53 deliveries. His knock, laced with six fours and three sixes, was a study in controlled aggression. Where Sohaib attacked in bursts, Aryansh anchored the chase, ensuring UAE never lost sight of the target.

Brief scores: UAE 154/5 (Aryansh 74*, Sohaib 51, Zafar 3-14) beat Canada 150/7 (Thaker 50, Dhaliwal 34, Siddique 3-35) by 5 wkts.

1 Aryansh has set a record for the highest individual innings for UAE in the T20 WC, going past the 66* by Muhammad Waseem vs NZ in Chennai on Feb 10, 2026.

2 UAE's five-wicket triumph vs Canada is their second win in T20 World Cups, the first being by 7 runs vs Namibia in Geelong on Oct 26, 2022.

Mukkamalla, Harmeet fashion big win for US

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Chennai: Even before the World Cup caravan rolled into town, USA's young gun Saiteja Mukkamalla had quietly done his homework. In late Dec, alongside senior pro Smit Patel, who eventually missed out on the squad for the WC, he spent over a week in the city, soaking in the conditions here.

Having trained under legend VVS Laxman and with Chepauk favourite Albie Morkel at Texas Super Kings in the MLC, Mukkamalla sharpened his skills at the Chennai Super Kings Academy against different surfaces. On Friday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, that groundwork bore fruit.

The 21-year-old, with Andhra roots, produced a stellar 70 (51b, 8x4, 4x6) to set up USA's commanding 93-run win over the Netherlands. It was the Americans' first win of the campaign and their maiden T20I victory against the Dutch. The huge victory boosted their net run rate and kept their hopes alive. The defeat dealt a major blow to the Netherlands' qualification prospects.

While Mukkamalla's batting propelled USA to a strong 106-6, left-arm spinner Harmeet Singh (4/21) took full advantage of the helpful pitch in Chennai's first night game. Harmeet

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

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Time for England to walk the talk

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Kolkata: There'll be no love lost at the Eden Gardens on Valentine's Day (Saturday) when England take on Scotland in a Group C T20 World Cup match. It could well turn out to be cricket's version of the Calcutta Cup, the famed rugby contest between the two sides, a rivalry which has stood the test of time for over a century.

Though England are overwhelming favourites, there is sure to be some on-field banters. Incidentally, Scotland and England will face each other in a rugby match in Edinburgh on the same day and as Scottish cricket captain Richie Berrington had quipped after their win over Italy, they wouldn't mind two victories over England on the same day.

On the field, however, England will be looking at much more than exchanging banters. Having scraped past Nepal and having lost to the West Indies, England will be looking to reboot on Saturday. Skipper Harry Brook insists they are not as bad as the tournament has made them look so far. He and his teammates have to start walking the talk now.

Placed in a relatively easy group, England are expected to advance to the Super Eights, along with West Indies. However, a slip against Scotland could spell the difference between survival and exit for the former champions.

To begin with, Jos Buttler has to fire. The veteran is a fulcrum around which innings are built. He has to inspire that confidences again. Also, Jofra Archer has to play his pace-spearhead role with more conviction.

FACE-OFF
ENG vs SCO
TV TIME 1 PM
STAR SPORTS HOTSTAR

LAST FIVE MATCHES

ENG	L	W	W	W	W
SCO	W	L	L	L	W

VENUE: KOLKATA

WEATHER 27°C

ENG	ODDS	SCO
1/10		8/1

Varun plots WC revenge on Pakistan with new variation

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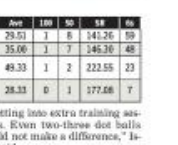

New Delhi: Spinner Varun Chakravarthy has dropped a hint that he is close to unveiling yet another 'mystery' variation, that too in the match against Pakistan in Colombo on Sunday.

Varun has reasons to want to settle scores with Pakistan. Babar Azam and Mohammed Rizwan took Varun on and dismantled his reputation on a dual-paced pitch in Dubai in the 2021 T20 World Cup. That was the night Pakistan registered their only win over India in World Cups across formats. The match night effectively crushed India's campaign and placed Varun's international career in cold storage for three years.

"I've been working on a few things but that has been my process all along. I always have some delivery coming up. It's all up to me. If I'm courageous enough, I'll try it in the next match," Varun said.

Varun walked out of the park on that Oct night in 2021 with the greatest learning about his own bowling — the need for more revolutions on the ball and zip off the pitch. Every drill, session and variation has been directed towards that end since.

The most visible addition to his bowling has been the odd, longer follow through. "I worked on my follow-through so that I could get more zip off the pitch. I've worked on my over-spin rather than side-spin and more speed and zip off the pitch," Varun said.

Varun was tight-lipped about his plans but did mention that he would try to flight the ball more on a sluggish Lankan with big boundaries at the Premadasa on Sunday night.

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY IN T20Is

	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4W	5W	SR	Eco
Overall	38	63	35.19	5/17	1	2	12.9	7.06
In wins	27	47	15.82	4/53	1	0	12.7	7.44
In losses	8	15	12.13	5/17	0	2	12.6	5.77
Last matches	1	1	31.00	1/31	0	0	24.0	7.75

8 India have won eight games in which Ishan Kishan has scored above 50. All nine 50-plus innings by him (including one century) have come on Indian soil.

42 Balls taken by Kishan to race to his maiden hundred (103 off 43 balls) vs New Zealand in Thiruvananthapuram on Jan 31, 2026, the quickest by any batter against New Zealand and the fifth quickest in terms of balls for India in the T20I format.

2 Ishan has breached the 50-run mark twice within the Powerplay: 55 off 23 balls during the course of his 76 off 32 balls vs NZ in Raipur on Jan 23, 2026 and 50 off 20 balls during his 61 off 24 balls vs Namibia in Delhi on Feb 12, 2026.

—Data: Rajesh Kumar

Banished From Indian Team For Two Years, Power Hitter Abandons Funny Side To Grow As A Cricketer

'No more jokes': Why Ishan Kishan is so serious now

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Aishwiya Chathrapathy

New Delhi: The last time Ishan Kishan played a World Cup match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium was against Afghanistan in the 2023 ODI World Cup. On the eve of that game, then-head coach Rahul Dravid only allowed him to play defensive shots for close to 90 minutes. He didn't play a game after that match. And in another two months' time he was banished by the team management and the selectors over disciplinary issues.

Fast forward two years later and Kishan is now critical at the top of the order as India's T20 World Cup title defence enters the business end. Ishan, enjoying a vein of good form, is in the zone — he was even unwavering that he had his wicketkeeping pads on for the press conference, a good 50 minutes after India had steamrolled Namibia here on Thursday night.

"*Arey sir, time hi nahin mila uttaar ne ko* (I didn't get time to take them off)," he said.

It's only been three weeks that he has got his place back in the Indian team and he has already leapfrogged from Sanju Samson's backup to India's lead weapon with the bat at the top of the innings. The baby-faced Ishan, who scored a 24-ball 61, says, "I am a changed man now."

For anyone who has followed him since his U-19 days, it's very difficult to come to terms with an Ishan who is not perpetually chirpy and having fun on the field. "I don't get into it too much but I do enjoy jokes and everything. Earlier I used to do it 24x7 but now it's just 3-5 hours of it. So, I am just focusing more on batting and my wicketkeeping, which is going to help the team and me. Everything else is secondary. I'm not just always joking, especially under Gauti bhai (head coach Gautam Gambhir)," Ishan said, the hint of the last two years still writ large on his face.

His work ethic too has improved. There has always been a question mark over his wicketkeeping. So, he decides to go through a rigorous drill on his reflexes for 30 minutes till toss time on game day.

There's much excitement around this version of Ishan Kishan the batter. Every ball is an event these days with him. He looks a lot freer and loose at the crease. The 200-run mark in T20 cricket looks possible when he gets going.

"I don't know if I've done a very big amount of hard work. I just kept it simple rather than rushing into things or getting excited and playing shots," he said.

"I'm just trying to be calm on the pitch and just trying to watch the ball and play the shots which I already had. Sometimes you get excited and play those shots when you're playing international cricket. I'm just trying to cut those moments off. I'm not thinking so much or getting into extra training sessions. Even two-three dot balls should not make a difference," Ishan said.

Going into the egos-at-stake match against Pakistan on a presumably sluggish Premadasa pitch in Colombo on Sunday, Ishan could well be India's biggest bet to land the opening punches.

"I do take singles as well and I do defend the good balls. When we play against Pakistan, things might be different. So we need to assess as soon as possible, know more about the pitch, their bowling strength, who's going to bowl when and who we can take on. If it's required for me to take a single and give the strike to someone else, I'll do that as well," Ishan said.

ISHAN KISHAN IN T20Is

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR	6s
Overall	38	36	1	1092	103	29.51	1	8	141.26	59
In wins	27	27	1	910	103	35.00	1	7	146.30	48
Best CY 2026 (in terms of SR)	6	6	0	296	103	49.33	1	2	222.55	23
T20 World Cup (2021-26)	3	3	0	85	61	28.33	0	1	177.08	7

ZIMBABWE SHOCKER FOR OZ

Aussies Fall 23 Runs Short In First Major Upset Of World Cup

MOMENT TO CHERISH: Zimbabwe players celebrate after beating Australia in Colombo

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This T20 World Cup has teased us with near-upsets, with lesser-fancied teams pushing heavyweights to the brink. On Friday, the underdog went one better.

It was supposed to be a familiar script: Australia the colossus, Zimbabwe the understudy. But under Colombo's humid skies, where the air hung heavy and the pitch gripped, Zimbabwe defied the odds to stun Australia by 23 runs.

Zimbabwe fought, contested every run and defended every inch. In the deep, they clung onto screamers, turning half opportunities into match-altering moments. It culminated in their second win over Australia in T20 World Cup history. Their first win came in the inaugural edition in South Africa 19 years ago.

Zimbabwe had also beaten Australia in the 1983 World Cup, a tournament India had famously won, like they did during the 2007 T20 World Cup. More than a year ago, Zimbabwe had failed to qualify for the 2024 T20 World Cup. Today, they are back among the elite, with two wins from two games. Zimbabwe moved into second place in Group B, while Australia slipped down to third place with only one win. Sri Lanka is at the top with a couple of wins.

"Very happy and above all, very proud. Feeling of a brother whose younger brothers are achieving a lot together," skipper Sikandar Raza, who had to watch a historic finish from the dressing room nursing a severe leg cramp, said.

"It was nice to watch from outside and see how the team went about their business, the culture, the environment, the unity that we have taken, that we have created over a long time. Just to see it from outside, I was extremely proud, and on top of that, a win. It's just unbelievable," he added.

For the former champions, depleted by a groin injury to captain Mitchell Marsh, and unavailability of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, Australia found themselves under pressure after losing early wickets while chasing 170, eventually folding up for 146.

"It's disappointing, but that's the game," said stand-in skipper Travis Head. "We've been here before. We had a few guys in that dressing room who were here in India in 2023 (WC) that navigated through that, and we ended up on the right side of it."

Zimbabwe controlled the tempo, dictated the terms, and didn't try to blast the doors open. Batting first, their 169/2 was a masterclass in tempo. Wickets were preserved through the sticky middle overs. Zimbabwe's innings moved with a patient pulse, waiting for the bowlers to blink. When the moment arrived, they detonated with precision.

Set up by a polished, unbeaten 56-ball 64 from opener Brian Bennett, Zimbabwe blended aggression with calculated acceleration. Bennett's partner Tadiwanashe Marumani set the tone, cracking 35 off 21 in a lively opening stand of 61. Ryan Burl matched Bennett stroke for stroke during a 70-run partnership for the second wicket, contributing a fluent 35 before holding out to Cameron Green in the 16th over. With the platform laid, captain Raza delivered the late thrust. His unbeaten 25 from 13, punctuated by a six and two fours, lifted Zimbabwe to a match-winning total.

For Australia, the slide began early. Pacer Blessing Muzarabani struck in his first over, removing Josh Inglis and also accounted for Tim David inside the Powerplay. Brad Evans proved an ideal foil, accounting for Cameron Green and Head. Australia were reeling at 29/4 in five overs.

Glenn Maxwell attempted a rebuild but never found fluency, grinding to 31 off 32 before Burl bowled him. Matt Renshaw counter-punched with a spirited 65 from 44 balls, briefly reviving hopes with five fours and a six.

But Muzarabani returned to extinguish embers of a possible Aussie fightback. His 4/17, a career-best bowling display and Brad Evans' three-wicket burst ensured there was no late twist. Zimbabwe fielded like their lives were dependent on it.

A stunning catch in the deep by Tony Munyonga to dismiss Ben Dwarshuis showcased Zimbabwe's intent. In the end, Australia were outplayed by a more determined team. This is a champagne-popping moment for Zimbabwe, fizzing with belief and sparkling against the odds. Australia, though, are staring at a possible group-stage exit.

0 Matches won by Australia against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup. Zimbabwe have now won both encounters between the two, the first win coming by 5 wickets in Cape Town on Sept 12, 2007.

10 Matches won by Zimbabwe out of 22 contested in the T20 World Cup (lost 11; NR 1).

169/2 Zimbabwe have recorded their highest total vs Australia in T20Is, bettering the 151/9 in Harare on July 6, 2018.

64* Unbeaten knock off 56 balls played by Brian Bennett is the highest for Zimbabwe vs Australia in T20Is, bettering the 63 by Solomon Mire in Harare on July 6, 2018.

4/17 Muzarabani has set a record for best bowling by a Zimbabwean in the T20 WC, bettering the 4/28 by Wellington Masakadza vs Scotland in Nagpur 2016.

SCOREBOARD

Zimbabwe: B Bennett not out 64, T Marumani c Inglis b Stoinis 35, R Burl c sub (Bartlett) b Green 35, S Raza not out 25; **Extras** (lb 3, w 7): 10; **Total** (2 wkts, 20 overs): **169**; **FoW:** 1-61, 2-131; **Bowling:** Dwarshuis 4-0-40-0, Stoinis 2.5-0-17-1, Maxwell 1-0-14-0, Kuhnemann 3-0-24-0, Ellis 4-0-34-0, Zampa 4-0-31-0, Green 1.1-0-6-1.

Australia: J Inglis c Musekiwa b Muzarabani 8, T Head b Evans 17, C Green c Marumani b Evans 0, T David c Cremer b Muzarabani 0, G Maxwell b Burl 31, M Renshaw c Burl b Muzarabani 65, M Stoinis c Musekiwa b Masakadza 6, B Dwarshuis c Munyonga b Evans 6, N Ellis not out 7, A Zampa b Muzarabani 2, M Kuhnemann run out 0; **Extras** (lb 2, w2): 4; **Total** (19.3 overs): **146**; **FoW:** 1-13, 2-24, 3-25, 4-29, 5-106, 6-117, 7-131, 8-139, 9-141; **Bowling:** Raza 2-0-17-0, Muzarabani 4-0-17-4, Evans 3.3-0-23-3, Myers 1-0-9-0, Cremer 4-0-33-0, Masakadza 4-0-36-1, Burl 1-0-9-1.

Result: Zimbabwe won by 23 runs

Oman, Ireland chase first win

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Ireland and Oman clash in Colombo on Saturday in a Group B contest where both teams are chasing their first win of the T20 World Cup 2026. Ireland are still reeling from losses to Australia and Sri Lanka, while Oman are looking to bounce back from heavy defeats to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. Beyond points, this clash is a battle for pride and survival.

Ireland suffered a major jolt when captain Paul Stirling was ruled out of the tournament after suffering ligament injury. Stirling hurt his right knee when completing a catch during Ireland's 67-run loss to Australia on Wednesday. Uncapped left-handed opening batsman Sam Topping will replace Stirling in the squad.

"Paul will shortly return home for rest and rehabilitation, ahead of the home summer," said Ireland's director of high performance, Graeme West. With Stirling's exit, Ireland must regroup, with the responsibility now falling on Harry Tector and Ross Adair.

On the bowling front, George Dockrell has provided some control, but Ireland's inability to post competitive scores has hurt them.

Oman's challenge has been their fragile batting lineup, dismissed cheaply for 103 and 120 in their two games. Mohammad Nadeem's gritty half-century against Sri Lanka stands out as the lone bright spot. Ireland hold the advantage with four wins in the last six meetings.

FACE-OFF

IRE vs OMAN

TV TIME: 11 AM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

IRE	OMA
4	2

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IRE	L	L	W	W	L
OMAN	L	L	W	W	L

VENUE: COLOMBO (SSC)

WEATHER 28°C

ODDS

IRE	OMAN
5/10	6/4

SA, NZ set up Group D shootout

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Ahmedabad: South Africa are coming off a double Super Over escape against Afghanistan while New Zealand have been ruthless.

In South Africa's case, both teams made 187, the first Super Over was tied and the Proteas finally edged the second. Quinton de Kock (59) and Ryan Rickelton (61) laid the base while Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 84 dragged Afghanistan back in the contest.

On the other hand, New Zealand chased down 183 against Afghanistan with 13 balls to spare, powered by Tim Seifert's 65 and Glenn Phillips' 42. Then, Seifert (89*) and Finn Allen (84*) smashed 175/0 to overhaul UAE's 174-run target with 38 balls remaining.

With both sides unbeaten, the winner should comfortably take Group D top spot. South Africa have won all four of their previous T20 World Cup meetings.

TOI takes a look at the key match-ups:

NZ openers vs SA pacers

Allen and Seifert have attacked the Powerplay. Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen need early wickets.

NZ middle and lower order vs Keshav Maharaj & Co

Phillips, Daryl Mitchell and Mark Chapman provide the punch but spin could still be the decider. Maharaj's left-arm spin will be tested while NZ may use Glenn Phillips' part-time spin sparingly.

SA openers vs NZ pacers

De Kock and Rickelton have started briskly. Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy and Lockie Ferguson must hit the deck in the Powerplay.

The subplot is in the dugout

Rob Walter, South Africa's former limited-overs coach, is now in charge of New Zealand. Pacer Henry said he expected another tight game, "as usual".

FACE-OFF

SA vs NZ

TV TIME: 7 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

SA	NZ
11	7

LAST FIVE MATCHES

SA	W	W	L	W	W
NZ	W	W	L	W	L

2 Runs needed by Quinton de Kock (2998 at 31.89 in 103 innings) to become the first South African batter to complete 3000 runs in T20Is.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

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Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560 001
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No.: DYES/TSP/79/2025-26 Date: 13.02.2026
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Sl. No.	Particulars	Tender Amount (in INR)	EMD Amount (in INR)
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Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

SNAP SHOTS

RIYAN TO LEAD

Assam all-rounder Riyan Parag was on Friday named Rajasthan Royals skipper for the upcoming IPL season, marking a leadership reset after Sanju Samson's switch to Chennai Super Kings. The 24-year-old has been with Rajasthan Royals since IPL 2019. He thus becomes one of the youngest skippers in the league's recent history.

Sathiyan, Manush advance: Snehit Suravajjula saved six match points in the decider to upset Japanese 13th seed Mizuki Oikawa 3-2 (9-11, 15-17, 11-4, 11-6, 18-16), while qualifier Nithya Mani packed off 14th seed Minhyung Jee 3-2 (10-12, 12-10, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7) to reach the men's and women's singles pre-quarterfinals of the WTT Star Contender Chennai 2026 on Friday. Also advancing to the men's pre-quarters were 10th seed G Sathiyan and 15th seed Manush Shah. Sathiyan defeated Korea Republic's Lim Jonghoon 3-1 (11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 13-11) while Manush beat another Korean Park Gyuhyeon 3-0 (11-6, 11-7, 11-9).

Poonacha-Isaro to face Sasikumar-Clarke: Top seeds Niki Poonacha and Pruchya Isaro set up a final clash with the unseeded pairing of Mukund Sasikumar and Jay Clarke in the doubles final, following contrasting wins at the Chennai Open ATP Challenger on Friday. The Poonacha-Isaro pair defeated the all-Indian duo of Prajwal Dev and Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-1. Sasikumar-Clarke clinched a 7-6, 4-6, 13-11 win over Felix Gill and Alastair Gray.

Darin stars for Income Tax FC: Darin Marcel Christopher struck a hat-trick to power Income Tax FC to an 8-0 win over DYES FC in the BDFA 'A' division football league championship in Bengaluru on Friday. **Results: A Division:** [illegible]

Jain storm into final: Hosts Jain University thwarted a spirited challenge from LMP University to storm into the title round of the All India inter-university basketball championship for women. At the Jain Global campus on Friday, the teams were tied at 25-all at half-time before Jain upped their game for a 51-42 victory. **Results: Semifinals:** [illegible] **Quarters:** [illegible]

Josephites win big: Hrithik sounded the boards four times as St Joseph's University opened their campaign in the Dr Isaac Abraham & Dr Noel Rasquinha memorial hockey tournament with a 13-1 win against St John's. Achaiah accounted for three goals while Ganapathi scored twice. Siddhanth, Aman, Varun and Shaan scored a goal apiece. For St John's, Antony struck the lone goal. **Results: Dr Noel Rasquinha:** [illegible] **Dr Isaac Abraham Memorial:** [illegible]

[illegible]

The KSCA Named The Two Bowling Ends After Anil Kumble & Rahul Dravid, While Shantha Rangaswamy Was Recognised With A Stand In Her Name

STANDING OVATION

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Three game-changers of cricket in the state were honoured by the Karnataka State Cricket Association as it belatedly marked the golden jubilee of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, which fell on Nov 22, 2024.

For generations of cricketers, the Chinnaswamy Stadium has been where dreams first took shape. It has also been a second home for stalwarts Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid and Shantha Rangaswamy — all of whom have led both Karnataka and India. As Kumble aptly put it, "From learning to compete to learning to lead, everything began here."

On Friday, the northern and pavilion ends of the stadium were formally christened the Rahul Dravid End and Anil Kumble End, respectively. Meanwhile, a long-pending demand of cricket aficionados was fulfilled with the B Lower Stand being named after Shantha Rangaswamy. Nearly five decades ago, she had marked that very stand with a six — the first by a woman at the venue.

Two pioneering administrators were also recognised: the late C Nagaraj and Capt. Dr K Thimmappaiah, whose names were etched on the M3 and M4 stands, respectively. Notably, in 2024, ten stands had been named after former Karnataka stars — all men.

"I'm very grateful to everyone who supported me in my journey. Having a stand named after me at my home ground is the ultimate recognition. I am humbled," said an elated Shantha.

Congratulating all those honoured, Kumble said, "To see the stands named after so many of our legends, some who I had the privilege of playing with and others who set the tone and example for us to follow at KSCA, is wonderful. It's not really about whose name is on which stand. It's truly special that all the contributions have been recognised and are now permanently etched in the stadium."

Reflecting on his career, Kumble added that representing Karnataka always held special meaning. "No matter how much one might have played for India, coming back to play for Karnataka meant the world to me, and I know I am speaking for Rahul [Dravid] and for all those from our state, men and women, who have represented the country."

Dravid recalled how his father, Sharad Dravid, first introduced him to cricket at this very venue. "My father loved the game, and he was instrumental in creating that love for the sport that I have. He brought me here to so many games, not only the Test matches, but to the Ranji Trophy as well. I think he would be so proud today to know that his son has an end named after him. What makes me even more proud is that I'm sharing this occasion and this honour with some people whom I truly admire and respect."

Expressing his gratitude to KSCA, Kumble left a lasting message. "Throughout my career, no one was sure how to classify me. Some called me a medium-pacer, some others referred to me as an inswing bowler, and those who called me a leg-spinner dismissed me as someone who couldn't turn the ball. All this made me more determined. I hope that when an ambitious young boy or girl, who aspires to play for the state or the country, comes into the stadium and sees my name, they can take heart from the fact that if you are committed and sincere to your craft, there are no heights that cannot be scaled," said the genial former cricketer with 619 Test and 337 ODI wickets.

ONE FOR THE ALBUM: KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad (from left) with former India captains Anil Kumble, Shantha Rangaswamy and Rahul Dravid

THE NAME GAME

NEW ADDITIONS
- **B Lower stand:** Shantha Rangaswamy
- **M3 stand:** Late C Nagaraj
- **M4 stand:** Late Capt. Dr K Thimmappaiah

ENDS NAMED
- **Northern end:** Rahul Dravid
- **Pavilion end:** Anil Kumble

EXISTING STANDS
- **P1:** Erapalli Prasanna
- **P2:** GR Vishwanath
- **P Terrace:** BS Chandrasekhar
- **P Corporate:** Syed Kirmani
- **M1:** Brijesh Patel
- **M2:** Roger Binny
- **Diamond Box:** Anil Kumble
- **N Stand:** Rahul Dravid
- **P1A:** Javagal Srinath
- **P4:** Venkatesh Prasad

> We cannot expect world-class players from underprepared coaches, so we are creating a structured, tiered pathway — from grassroots to high performance.
> **Sujith Somasundar** | VP, KSCA, ON THE ACADEMY

ACADEMY TAKES SHAPE

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Make Karnataka India's leading cricket development state, producing technically sound, mentally strong, and competitive cricketers	Build a world-class, high-performance ecosystem in Karnataka	
	Seamless pathway from junior to senior state teams	Integrate coaching, sports science, analytics & education
		Develop players holistically

TOI REPORT ON NOV 30, 2024

No stand in Shantha's name

[illegible]

> Among my fondest memories of playing here are leading the country in a Test against Pakistan in 2007, winning the Titan Cup match against Australia in 1996 in the company of my great friend and inspiration, Javagal Srinath, and being part of a few Test victories
> **Anil Kumble** | FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

Karnataka in control

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Karnataka put themselves in a commanding position against Himachal Pradesh on Day 1 of their Col CK Nayudu Trophy U-23 league match on Friday.

Opting to bat at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in Amtar, openers Prakhar Chaturvedi (55) and Faizan Khan (52) laid a solid foundation as Karnataka finished the day strongly at 352/3 in 90 overs.

The opening pair added 98 runs off 159 deliveries before Prashant Kumar provided the breakthrough in

CK NAYUDU TROPHY

the 27th over by dismissing Prakhar. Prashant struck again in the 38th over, with Faizan caught by Amanpreet Singh, to give Himachal Pradesh some respite.

However, Karthikeya KP and Dhruv Prabhakar steadied the innings with the highest partnership of the day — a 124-run stand off 184 deliveries for the third wicket. The duo frustrated the hosts before Karthikeya fell agonisingly short of a century.

TOP KNOCK: Karthikeya KP

Karthikeya struck an assured 97 off 134 balls, his innings featuring 13 boundaries and a six, before Prashant claimed his third wicket.

Prashant's three-wicket effort notwithstanding, Karnataka remained firmly in control. At stumps, Dhruv was unbeaten on 93, with skipper Aneeshwar Gautam (41 batting) for company.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 352/3 in 90 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 55, Faizan Khan 52, Karthikeya KP 97, Dhruv Prabhakar 93 batting, Aneeshwar Gautam 41 batting; Prashant Kumar 3-57) vs **Himachal Pradesh**

Avani top Indian at 22nd

A solid round of four-under 68 lifted Avani Prashanth to tied-22nd with one round remaining in the PIF Saudi Ladies International Championship at Riyadh Golf Club. Avani (68-71-68) had five birdies against one bogey and has a chance to make further improvement.

Her other two Indian colleagues, Aditi Ashok (72-69-71) was T-54, while Pranavi Urs (73-69-71) was T-57. The other two Indians in the fray,

GOLF ROUND-UP

Diksha Dagar and Hitaashee Bakshi had missed the cut.

First round leader, Hye-Jinn Choi of Korea returned to the top with a round of 65 and she is now 15-under and tied with Japan's Rio Takeda (69-66-66).

BHATIA FIRES 7-UNDER

Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia got off to a blazing start at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, carding a 7-under 65 to sit tied for seventh after the opening round. He fired three consecutive birdies, added two more on the sixth and seventh to reach 5-under through seven, and, without dropping a shot, closed the round with birdies on the 15th and 18th. Another Indian-American Sahith Theegala had a rollercoaster round, finishing 1-under 71 and tied for 57th. Aaron Rai had a rough round of 5-over 77.

GUNTAS, ANANYAA MAKE CUT

A solitary birdie against two bogeys was enough for Guntas Sandhu to squeeze into the weekend rounds as two of the four Indians made the halfway cut at the Women's Amateur Asia Pacific Championship at Royal Wellington on Friday. Guntas, who opened with a 71, carded a 73 in rainy conditions in the second round to move into the top-20 at tied-19. The only other Indian to make the cut was Ananyaa Sood (74-75) and she was T-43. Zara Anand (79-79) and Jia Kataria (81-81) missed the cut. PTI

India's lost football season finally kicks off

After Months Of Uncertainty, Truncated ISL 2025-26 Begins Today With Mohun Bagan Hosting Blasters

Nilesh.Bhattacharya@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The wait is over.

The Indian football season is finally here but not, perhaps, at a time ideal enough to fall head over heels with it, especially after the way the game has been left gasping in search of clarity, continuity and identity. As Mohun Bagan SG begin their title defence of an abridged version of the Indian Super League against Kerala Blasters here on Saturday, Indian football is facing a strange transition. True, every transition has its own turbulence, but this

ISL

season seems to be more about unshackling a state of sterility than setting in motion a long haul.

Change, though, remains the popular catchword — both as a contradictory and complementary force. For the first time since the league's inception in 2014, it's now in the hands of the national federation. But in this change of guard, issues remain and unintended consequences threaten to emerge with the end of the Master Rights Agreement between the AIFF and Reliance-owned Football Sports Development Limited. How the entire ISL ecosystem has bled in this period of uncertainty is there for everyone to see, and shudder. Holders Mohun Bagan are beginning a new life replacing last season's ISL Shield and Cup-winning coach Jose Molina with another successful and veteran Spaniard Sergio Lobera. "Pressure? Yes, there's pressure. I think if you don't feel pressure, it means you don't need to fight for big targets. I know I am in a winning team, in a champion's team. I know what is my responsibility and I am very excited about this responsibility," Lobera remarked during his match-eve media interaction on Friday.

Bagan will be looking to defend their crown

Lobera has reasons to be optimistic as the might of Mohun Bagan looks too formidable to be rooted out easily. Because even in this period of chaos and uncertainty, they have the luxury of assembling the players and training for the past couple of months. Kerala Blasters, on the other hand, represent everything about the detrimental effect of this confusing and trying time. They had to part company with their entire force of foreigners including the veterans like Noah Sadoui, Jesus Jimenez and Adrian Luna and new coach David Catala has a job on his hands with the arrival of a new quintet of overseas players with no experience of playing in Indian conditions. "We have come here with just 14 days of preparation and it's not enough," Catala said. "We're up against a team which has been training all this time when we didn't know what would happen to us. It is true that we are going to be the underdog team, but in football anything can happen," the Blasters coach added.

Constrained by financial instability, the state of play has seen several clubs go the Blasters' way, with FC Goa's David Timor, Iker Guarrotxena and Borja Herrera, Mumbai City FC's Tiri and Bengaluru FC's Edgar Mendez being some familiar faces bidding forced goodbyes to Indian football while Durand Cup champions North-East United FC have loaned out Alaeddine Ajaraie — the best player of the ISL's 2024-2025 season — to Persija Jakarta in the Indonesian league.

RELEGATION ENTERS THE ISL EQUATION

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Panaji: The Indian Super League (ISL), for the first time, will see relegation this season. This, despite objections from all 14 participating clubs to keep the constitutional requirement on hold due to a truncated season.

Since it's launch in 2014, ISL has remained a closed league. In 2020, the league became India's top tier, and even though champion teams from the lower division were promoted to the top, relegations were not part of the plan. Now, the AIFF's new constitution makes it mandatory for the seniormost top division league to be "owned, operated, recognised and directly managed by the AIFF, with principles of promotion and relegation."

The AIFF has now circulated the ISL League Rules to all clubs and made it clear that the team finishing at the bottom of the 14-team table will be relegated to the second division. According to Article 3.2.6 "at the conclusion of the season, the bottom ranked club in the League (last on the league table), on the date of completion of all matches, shall be relegated to the I-League 2026-27 (or the second division of men's professional league football, as it is then known)." The League Rules also stipulate that the winner of the second division I-League — now renamed Indian Football League — will be promoted to next season's ISL.

EFI backs tainted official without holding inquiry

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), which faced criticism over its choice of sexual harassment-accused Col (retd) Tarsem Singh Warraich as the manager-cum-coach for the International Tent Pegging World Cup qualifiers in Jordan, has sought to offer a clean chit to the official without holding a formal inquiry. The EFI backed his selection by suggesting that he was the best person to accompany the four-member team to the event in Jordan.

The EFI's move came even as the case against Warraich, involving alleged harassment and molestation charges, continued to be heard in court on a complaint filed by two girl victims from an army background. Warraich is out on bail until March 12, 2026, before he's directed to surrender before the authorities by a fast-track court of Additional Sessions judge, Justice Dr Jasbir Singh.

The sports ministry is awaiting a report from the EFI on Warraich's presence with the team in Jordan. According to a mail accessed by TOI, EFI's acting president Col (retd) Jagat Singh wrote to Oman-based International Tent Pegging Federation (ITPF), stating that as per Warraich, a false case of sexual harassment was registered against him at Sonepat in Feb 2021 and that the bail order placed no restriction on him to perform his duties as an EFI's executive committee (EC) member, Tent-Pegging.

Brentford frustrate Arsenal

London: Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice said his side cannot be distracted by talk of Manchester City closing in at the top of the Premier League after the Gunners were held 1-1 at Brentford on Thursday.

City are now just four points behind Mikel Arteta's men and have home advantage when the sides meet in April.

However, City's late fight-

EPL

back to snatch a 2-1 victory at Liverpool on Sunday could prove a turning point in the title race. Pep Guardiola's men maintained their momentum by beating Fulham 3-0 in midweek and Arsenal failed to respond.

Noni Madueke gave the visitors the lead in west London, but Brentford hit back through Keane Lewis-Potter and were unfortunate not to claim all three points in the final 20 minutes. "We lacked composure to maintain the ball better, to play in the right areas," said Arteta. AFP

ON A ROLL: Griezmann scores Atletico's second goal

Atletico rout Barca in first leg

Madrid: Atletico Madrid hammered Copa del Rey holders Barcelona 4-0 on Thursday in the first leg of their semifinal.

After an Eric Garcia own goal sent Diego Simeone's side ahead early on, Antoine Griezmann, Ademola Lookman and Julian Alvarez struck to give Atletico a landslide lead by half-time. Barca

COPA DEL REY

defender Garcia was sent off in the final stages, with Atletico maintaining their significant advantage on the record 32-time winners. The second leg will take place at Camp Nou on March 3.

Barca coach Hansi Flick said, "In the first 45 minutes we were handed a big lesson. Sometimes it's good to get (that) in the right moment, maybe today is the right moment." AGENCIES

BAISOYA ENDS FOUR-YEAR WAIT WITH DELHI TITLE

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New Delhi: Honey Baisoya capped off a fine week in style, hitting a final day five-under 65 to storm to victory at the DP World Players Championship at the Qutab Golf Course. The win, his first in nearly four years, earned him a winner's check for Rs 22,50,000 and propelled him from third to the top of the 2026 DP World PGTI Order of Merit standings. "Winning here is very nice. Even though I had a five-shot lead, I had to stay on top of my game," Baisoya said.

League auction on Monday

As many as 170 professional golfers from 11 countries will go under the hammer here on Monday for the inaugural '72 The League', the league of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). Each of the six franchises will pick 10 for their respective teams, for a total auction purse of Rs six crore.

Future tense for Indian hockey

Dismantling By Argentina Raises Huge Concerns

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Rourkela: The Indian men's hockey team came into the ongoing Pro League looking to begin their preparations for the Asian Games and World Cup and to slowly begin forming the squad for the same. They brought in several youngsters and rested some seniors, albeit with considerable controversy.

However, things have fallen apart completely for Craig Fulton and his team with India losing both their matches so far. The 1-3 loss to Belgium seemed like a blip as the season kicked off, but then came the 0-8 mauling at the hands of Argentina on Thursday night. It was India's worst scoreline in over a decade. India take on Belgium and Argentina again over the weekend, before flying off to Hobart to play four more matches, against Australia and Spain later this month.

So shambolic was Thursday's performance that even Argentina's Tomas Domene, who scored four goals during the game, found it hard to believe. "No, no, not at all, I didn't expect the result. India are always a difficult team. They have good players. I think they had the chance with the two strokes, but they missed. That helped us get the confidence," he said on Friday. Fulton had something similar to say. "If we made a mistake, we got punished and if they made a mistake, we didn't punish them. And that's what happened," he offered by way of post-mortem.

Fulton did not defend the result and believes it's all part of the process. "We're putting ourselves in difficult situations and we'll find out more about ourselves, about the squad and the team. And as a squad rotation, we changed players from Game 1 to Game 2, that changes momentum and at the same time it can make it better or a little bit harder," added the coach.

While the overall performance is worrying, one of the major concerns currently is Harmanpreet Singh's form. He missed two back-to-back strokes during the Argentina game, hasn't converted the PCs and his defending has been questionable. The captain even made a mispass during the Belgium game from which they scored their opener.

Speaking about it, the coach said, "He's not himself at the moment, as we all can see. But at the same time, we'll assess it and see where he's at." That said, India did play some of the worst hockey in recent memory in the second quarter when they conceded five of the eight goals within a span of just 10 minutes. Domene believes it was because India were trying to attack more after conceding the first few goals when things fell apart.

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Prez Trump erases finding that climate change endangers human health, ending US govt legal authority to control pollution, P 22

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Muzarabani's 4-17 helps Zimbabwe cause first major upset at T20 WC with a surprise 23-run win against Australia, P 26

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DEPUTY CM DK SHIVAKUMAR SAYS HE LIVES WITH HOPE, CONFIDENCE AMID BUZZ OVER POSSIBLE CM CHANGE P4

6 students, biker killed in serial collision near B'luru

Teenagers' Early Morning Joyride Ends In Horror

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The SUV with students hit a bike & a moving truck. A Brezza then crashed into truck's parts, 15 minutes later

Bengaluru: What was meant to be an early-morning joyride turned into a tragedy of unimaginable proportions when a "speeding" SUV was reduced to a mangled heap of metal and shattered glass, snuffing out seven lives — six students, five of them minors, and a bike rider — near Kambalipura Gate in Hoskote taluk of Bengaluru Rural district on Friday.

After hitting a bike, the SUV rear-ended a moving truck. In a matter of moments, the Dobbaspet-Hoskote Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) was transformed into a chilling scene of devastation. Police said the accident occurred between 4.15am and 4.30am.

▶Deceased biker was family's breadwinner, P 3

A senior police officer told **TOI** the SUV was mangled beyond recognition, with all its six occupants found dead inside the vehicle. The deceased were identified as Ahram Sharif, 16; Ashvin Nayar; Bethan George, Ayan Ali, Bharath – all 17 years old; Mohammed Farhan Shaik, 18; and Gagan, 26. While Gagan was riding a bike, the other six were travelling in an XUV 700. Balasubramaniam, 32, the driver of the truck, was injured.

About 15 minutes after the multi-vehicle crash, a Brezza headed towards Bengaluru airport rammed into the truck's detached axle and wheel housing still lying on road. The car was damaged and its two occupants suffered minor injuries. Naresh, who was driving the Brezza, alerted police. Police said the six students were heading towards Devanahalli from Hoskote when, near Kambalipura Gate, Ayan — who was reportedly driving the XUV 700 — lost control while speeding and rammed into the bike ridden by Gagan, flinging him into the air. He died on the spot.

▶SUV hit barrier, P 3

Rebuild razed home of accused, HC tells Nagpur civic body

Bombay high court's Nagpur bench has ordered Nagpur civic authorities to either rebuild or compensate the family for demolishing the house of a riot accused. The three-storey home of Fahim Khan, who was accused of stoking the March 17, 2025 Nagpur riots through his social media posts, was bulldozed. **Inside Flap**

Bengaluru women commuters to get Shakti smart card

Women in Bengaluru will soon get Shakti smart cards for free BMTC bus travel. This will double as National Common Mobility Cards for seamless entry into Namma Metro. The card will continue to guarantee free bus travel on BMTC buses and will be issued free of cost. P 2

Syed Asif

The B Lower stand at M Chinnaswamy Stadium was named in honour of women's cricket legend Shantha Rangaswamy. Incidentally, five decades ago, Shantha had marked this stand with a six, the first by a woman at this stadium P 27

Girl loses 2 fingers; cut parts put in bin

A six-year-old class 1 student allegedly lost her two fingers after they got crushed by a door at a govt primary school on the outskirts of Tumakuru. What triggered outrage was the claim that the severed fingers were swept up and thrown into the waste bin. P 5

Pannun assassination plot: Nikhil Gupta pleads guilty in New York court

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a dramatic courtroom reversal, Indian national Nikhil Gupta pleaded guilty on Friday to federal charges linked to a foiled plot to assassinate **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**, a pro-Khalistan separatist and US citizen. The 54-year-old Gupta, appearing before US magistrate judge Sarah Netburn, admitted to three counts: murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

The plea marks a striking turnaround from Gupta's previous stance. Since his extradition from the Czech Republic in June 2024, he had vehemently denied wrongdoing. Legal analysts suggest Gupta's decision to plead guilty stems from the overwhelming evidence amassed by federal prosecutors. The trial, initially scheduled for March 30, was expected to feature wiretapped conversations and electronic communications directly linking him to the plot. In these recordings, Gupta allegedly negotiated a $100,000 fee with a supposed hitman—who, in reality, was an undercover US federal agent. By entering a guilty plea, Gupta avoids a high-profile trial that could have resulted in a maximum sentence of 40 years.

While sentencing is ultimately at the judge's discretion, the United States govt has recommended 21 to 24 years behind bars.

▶Sentencing soon, P 18

Red Fort attack: UNSC panel notes Jaish link

A report by the UN Security Council sanctions monitoring team has noted that Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed was reported to be linked to a terror attack near Red Fort in New Delhi last Nov that killed 15 people.

"One member state noted that Jaish-e-Mohammed had claimed responsibility for a series of attacks. It was also reported to be linked to an attack on Red Fort," the 37th report of the analytical support and sanctions monitoring team submitted to the Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee concerning ISIL and Al-Qaida stated.

The report, issued here, added that on Oct 8, JeM functionary Mohammed Masood Azhar Alvi "formally announced the establishment of a women-only wing, Jamaat ul-Muminat, which was aimed at supporting terrorist attacks." PTI

'Why no case against RTO officials,' asks HC; gives relief to Lamborghini owner

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Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has stayed investigations against the owner of Lamborghini Huracan over alleged fraud, forgery and fabrication of documents, while expressing surprise that no RTO official has been booked for lapses which caused losses to the state exchequer.

> If there is (a) fraud played by the RTO, (then) it is surprising that its officers are not made accused. Only the owner of the car is made (an) accused. The SPP has submitted that every person involved in this transaction will be brought to book
> — Justice Nagaprasanna

On Feb 1, Yelahanka New Town police filed a complaint against the owner, Hi Car Care of Sahakar Nagar in Bengaluru, after the senior motor vehicle inspector seized the high-end car. "If there is (a) fraud played by the RTO, (then) it is surprising that its officers are not made accused. Only the owner of the car is made (an) accused. State public prosecutor BA Belliappa has submitted that every person involved in this transaction will be brought to book," Justice Nagaprasanna recorded in his order.

▶'RTO erased info', P 4

After SC rap, HC judge says won't hear bail pleas

Lucknow: Justice Pankaj Bhatia of the Allahabad high court's Lucknow bench expressed unwillingness on Friday to be part of the bail roster anymore after the Supreme Court castigated the manner in which he had granted bail. He said although it was well known that "there is no judge who can claim that his order has never been set aside or interfered with", the SC's observations "have had a huge demoralising and chilling effect on me".

The apex court had set aside Justice Bhatia's ruling with serious remarks, terming it "one of the most shocking and disappointing orders that we have come across over a period of time". TNN

DEG toxin in cough syrup victims' samples confirmed

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Bhopal: Forensic reports have confirmed the presence of diethylene glycol (DEG), a highly toxic industrial solvent known to cause acute kidney failure, in the viscera samples of children who died after consuming Coldrif cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh in Oct 2025, effectively shutting the door on any other explanation or alternative medical causes for the loss of lives.

In the Coldrif samples seized from Tamil Nadu-based Sresan Pharmaceuticals, manufacturer of the cough syrup, as well as from leftover bottles collected from the homes of the victims in Madhya Pradesh in the aftermath of the deaths, nearly 48% of the content was found to be DEG.

'COLDRIF HAD 48% DEG'

- Diethylene glycol **is known to cause acute kidney failure**
- Coldrif contained **nearly 48% DEG in samples** from victims
- **25 kids died** after consuming contaminated cough syrup in MP
- Toxicology **links it directly to deaths** in investigation findings
- **Industrial-grade DEG used** at TN unit instead of pharma grade
- Eleven accused have been arrested; **supplementary chargesheet to be filed soon**

The findings will form the backbone of a supplementary chargesheet expected to be filed soon against the 11 accused arrested so far. The tragedy unfolded between Aug and Oct last year.

▶High levels of DEG, P 18

Manipur kids' trauma finds voice in their art

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Imphal: A man hangs from a tree, his neck twisted at an angle. To the right, a house burns, flames swallowing the roof. Above the smoke line, on the hills, four figures stand on a ridge, rifles pointed downward. Below them, bodies. One lies face down beside a bicycle. Another, arms outstretched, is circled in red. The scribble is in graphite. Only the blood has colour.

The artist was a 16-year-old Meitei boy.

He sketched it in pencil and ink inside the Trade & Expo Centre relief camp at Lamboikhongnangkhong in Imphal West in Aug 2024, where mats were spread wall to wall and children sat in narrow rows, their school year suspended. Volunteers had distributed paper and crayons that morning. The instruction was simple: draw what you feel. Children at other camps across Manipur responded to the same invitation with similar precision.

Many drawings depict hanging bodies, AK-47s & burning homes

▶18k displaced, P 13

You must let elected govts function, SC advises HCs

Frowns On Repeated Interference By Himachal HC In State's Decisions

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SC said the HC had rightly rejected HP's reliance on the delimitation process to seek postponement of local body elections by six months

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday frowned on Himachal Pradesh HC's repeated interference in the state govt's decisions and said it appeared that the high court was not allowing the elected govt to function. SC warned that it would view such interference seriously in future.

Despite these oral remarks, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the HC had rightly rejected the Himachal govt's reliance on the ongoing delimitation process to seek postponement of local body elections by six months. "Pendency of delimitation exercise cannot be a ground to seek postponement of elections," the bench said.

It also said the HC was right in saying that holding timely elections to urban local bodies, municipalities and nagar panchayats had been mandated by the Constitution. There are around 3,500 gram panchayats, 90 panchayat samitis, 11 zila parishads and 71 urban local bodies in HP, the majority of which go to polls this year.

Taking into consideration the logistics and problems of accessibility to remote areas in winter, the bench extended the HC's April 30 deadline for completion of local body elections by a month to May 31.

Appearing for the petitioner, on whose plea the HC had asked the delimitation exercise to be completed before Feb 28, senior advocate Maninder Singh told the bench that the high court had set the deadline keeping in mind the fact that nationwide Census work would commence from May 1. It was the state election commission that had cited this fact before SC, he said.

For the state govt, senior advocate V Giri said the HC should have kept the logistics in mind while setting the deadline for completion of civic body elections.

The CJI-led bench in its order said, "The direction by the HC that elections to local bodies are required to be held after the expiry of their tenure as per constitutional mandate does not warrant any interference."

"However, having regard to logistic difficulties, we modify the time schedule and direct that all preparatory work be completed before March 31 instead of Feb 28. Elections shall be conducted within eight weeks thereafter, that is positively before May 31. No application for extension of time will be entertained," the bench said.

SC: Telcos not ready for bankruptcy proceeding cannot own spectrum

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New Delhi: In an important ruling, Supreme Court on Friday held that telecom companies cannot claim ownership over spectrum allocated to them by the govt and the natural resource cannot be subject to the insolvency and liquidation process of a bankrupt telecom company.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar rejected the plea of banks which submitted that licenced spectrum could also be put on block to recover debt taken by a bankrupt telecom company. It quashed an NCLAT order in insolvency proceedings of Aircel group which had said that spectrum usage rights could be treated as assets of a corporate debtor and could be transferred during insolvency or liquidation. The court's order is a setback to banks that are exposed to telecom firms.

"Recognition of spectrum licensing rights as an intangible asset in the balance sheet is not determinative of recognition/transfer of ownership of the spectrum to telecom service providers (TSPs). It only indicates control over the future economic benefits flowing from the grant of the right to use the spectrum. Hence, even if the right to use spectrum exhibits property-like features such as longer licensing terms, exclusivity, transferability, tradability, etc, they merely represent different sticks in the bundle of rights and falls short of conferring complete ownership of the spectrum on TSPs," the bench said.

Justice Narasimha, who penned the judgment, said merely because spectrum can be treated as an "asset" on the basis of certain attributes — such as possession and usage, lease and assignment, claim and liability or credit and debt — the entirety of the telecom sector cannot be brought under the sweep of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

He said the grant of a telecom licence, including the right to use spectrum, does not effect a transfer of ownership or proprietary interest.

Bby HC orders civic body to rebuild Nagpur rioting suspect's bulldozed home

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Nagpur: The bulldozed three-storey Nagpur home of alleged rioting mastermind Fahim Khan must be either rebuilt or his family compensated for the loss, Bombay high court's Nagpur bench told civic authorities this week while seeking to know by March 4 which option they would prefer.

The bench of Justices Anil Kilor and Raj Wakode said Nagpur Municipal Corporation's decision to raze Fahim's home after he was named the prime accused in the March 17, 2025, Nagpur riots amounted to violation of mandatory legal procedures outlined by Supreme Court.

The bench was hearing a petition by Fahim's 69-year-old mother, Mehrunissa Shamim Khan, and other accused in the case.

Communal violence had erupted in Nagpur's Mahal neighbourhood last year over alleged inflammatory remarks linked to Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Fahim, city president of the Minority Democratic Party, was accused of stoking the unrest through his social media posts.

The administration ordered civic authorities to demolish Fahim's family home in Sangyabagh Colony on March 25, days after his arrest. By the time Justice Nitin Sambre stayed the demolition order on a plea by Mehrunissa, the structure had been bulldozed.

Counsel Ashwin Ingole, representing Fahim, said the demolition notices issued on March 21, 2025, under the Maharashtra Regional Town Planning Act bypassed the Nov 13, 2024, Supreme Court ruling by a bench led by former Chief Justice Bhushan Gavai, barring demolition of property solely on grounds of the owner or resident being named as an accused in a criminal case.

The division bench on Thursday agreed that civic authorities may have dodged the SC guidelines.

The petitioner said her family property was built in 2005 after acquiring all statutory permissions and making the stipulated payments. She said there was no objection from any quarter to the existence of that structure for over two decades, making the sudden demolition legally questionable.

Electrician shot dead after 1 LED light glitches at wedding venue

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Gurgaon: One among many LED lights malfunctioned, angering a groom and his associates so much that one of them shot dead 25-year-old Barkat, the electrician responsible for arrangements at the wedding venue in Pataudi, on Thursday night.

Police said the groom, Amandeep, had a heated argument with Barkat when he noticed the lighting imperfection. As the row escalated quickly, Amandeep took out a gun and fired at Barkat but missed, according to the FIR. An alarmed Barkat began running, along with his co-workers, but another bullet — purportedly fired by an aide of Amandeep — hit Barkat from behind.

Harsh (25), who is accused of firing the fatal shot, was taken into custody by police. Harsh claimed during questioning that he had "accidentally fired" a bullet from his uncle's licensed weapon, which was kept on a table.

Father to three children, Barkat was a Mathura resident who would visit Gurgaon twice a year during the wedding season. Police said they received information about the firing at Ransika village late Thursday night, and a team from Pataudi police station reached the spot. Bloodstains were found at the scene, and the crime team was called to collect evidence.

A case was registered under sections 109(1) (murder), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 3(5) (act done by multiple persons) of BNS. The FIR names Amandeep and an associate Sahil as accused, but not Harsh, the one arrested.

Ravi Varma's 'last' painting caught in ownership row

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New Delhi: A rare Raja Ravi Varma painting — by some accounts his last work — is at the centre of a high-stakes legal battle with multiple ownership claims.

The painting, 'Kadambari', by the 19th-century maestro, is at present in the possession of Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, which assured Delhi high court recently that it is only exhibiting the artefact, being a private museum, and is not going to sell it further.

The piece of art, estimated to be worth well over Rs 100 crore, was originally in possession of a Delhi-based art collector, who moved HC alleging that he was "conned" by his close associates into handing it over to them and lost out on a work of immense emotional and cultural value to the country. The associates, he said, sold the painting.

In his suit, art collector Mohinder Verma alleged that in 2021 he entrusted the masterpiece to individuals he considered trusted associates, as one of them was also a director in Verma's company. However, they first tricked him into accepting advance payment of Rs 3 crore in pounds sterling in London, then tipped off the local police, resulting in him being jailed abroad.

Taking advantage of his incarceration, the people he entrusted with the painting for safekeeping and restoration, with the explicit understanding that no further action could be taken without his express approval, sold the artwork through a web of intermediaries. The suit claimed the painting ended up at a public auction conducted by Saffron Art, where the work was acquired by the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) for a substantial sum — all while the original owner remained entirely in the dark.

Meanwhile, UK police dropped charges against Verma and he was acquitted. On returning to India, he lodged a complaint with Delhi Police against his associates, resulting in an FIR and a probe.

CONNED BY ASSOCIATES, SAYS 'OWNER'

- Art collector **Mohinder Verma**, original owner of painting, files suit in Delhi HC
- Plea says Mohinder **left painting in 2021 with 'trusted associates'** for safekeep, restoration, in London, associates **tricked him into accepting advance payment of ₹3cr in pounds**, then tipped off local police, resulting in Mohinder being **jailed in UK**
- Artwork was then **sold through web of intermediaries**, plea says. Painting ended up at a Saffron Art auction, where it was **acquired by the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art** for a substantial sum
- Mohinder, later **exonerated** of all charges and acquitted, claims he was **in the dark** on these deals
- Matter being heard in HC. Meanwhile, KNMA says **it'll not sell work** to a 3rd party

With the art collector naming auction houses as defendants, any decision by HC is likely to impact the long-standing "culture of informality" in the Indian art trade

While hearing the suit, Justice Mini Pushkarna asked the parties to first pursue pre-litigation mediation. During the hearing, the defendants told court that Verma's brother and sister-in-law should also be made party to the suit, as ownership of the painting was being claimed by them.

HC agreed and said it is "of the view that the brother and sister-in-law of the plaintiff ought to be before this court". It asked the duo to also appear before the mediation wing with the other parties.

In his suit, Verma explained why he rushed to court, claiming he recently learned that the Queensland Art Gallery, in Brisbane, Australia, is establishing a dedicated section for the paintings of Raja Ravi Varma.

"Several prominent art dealers informed the plaintiff that 'Kadambari' is intended for permanent display at this gallery, thereby resulting in its removal from India and beyond the territorial jurisdiction of this court. The plaintiff therefore states that there is an imminent risk of the painting being transferred to the Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane, Australia," Verma said in his plea.

Appearing for the art collector, advocate Chirag Sehra-manium contended that those who profit from the commercialisation of art cannot distance themselves from the responsibility of verifying the title and urged the court to hold the intermediaries accountable. With Verma naming auction houses and market intermediaries as defendants in the suit, any decision by HC is likely to impact the long-standing "culture of informality" in the Indian art trade. The suit also highlights that auction houses and buyers must first verify the provenance of the artwork before going further.

THE FINAL CALL TO GOA'S 5-STAR LIFE

THE FINAL CALL TO GOA'S 5-STAR LIFE